

Cope Family

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The Ancestors and Descendants of John Cope, Son of Caleb and Mary Cope

Thomas R. Kellogg, a Descendant

This paper was prepared to add to the store of Cope family information collected at Awbury Arboretum, located in the Germantown section of Philadelphia, where a number of members of the family resided. It is primarily about John Cope and his descendants who were related to the Awbury Copes. The founders of Awbury were sons of Thomas Pim Cope, a brother of John Cope.

John Cope was born on November 14, 1763 in Chester County, Pennsylvania.¹ He was the eldest son of Caleb Cope and Mary Mendenhall Cope. Although the eldest son he is less well known than his brother, Thomas Pim Cope, founder of the Cope line of packet ships, one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Railroad and a state senator.

During the American Revolution Major John Andre of the British Army was captured by the Americans and was interned at Lancaster. As an officer he was permitted to live at a tavern while detained. When the tavern keeper did not get paid he insisted on the interned

officers obtaining other lodgings. Eventually he secured lodgings at the Caleb Cope house in Lancaster. Cope was a Burgess of Lancaster and a prosperous Quaker.² He was a plasterer by occupation and a trustee of the Friends' meeting house.³ He had been hesitant to extend hospitality to the interned officer but when requested to do so he consented. After he left the tavern and moved in to the Cope house Major Andre enthusiastically joined the family. A younger brother of John recalled the major sporting with the children as one of them, playing marbles and other boyish games.⁴ Major Andre was an artist as well as a soldier and perceived some inborn artistic talent in the young John Cope. He felt that the twelve-year-old's childish drawings proved him a genius.⁵ He taught the boy the rules followed by European artists and wanted the boy to become his disciple encouraging him in his artistic endeavors.⁶ He suggested that the boy return to England with him to pursue his interest and talent, but John's father did

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areas as red chimneys and brilliant, sunny yellow sky. Brunner's figures are typical, simply formed, relatively stiff-limbed, with minimal faces. Nevertheless, they are not alienating, but friendly eager and anticipating.



As an aside, the two men standing behind the red barn door are the Landis brothers, who originally willed their land to the Landis Valley Corporation. Hattie, too, is walking up the path, dressed in red from head to toe.

The major theme of "County Auction" is nostalgia, with emphasis on sweetness and light. The "realists" could find little to please them here, no plowed field, broken pail, rusting implement, mud hole, wallowing pig, thistle or manure heap in sight. Instead, added



warmth is conveyed to the senses through the soft yellow glow of windows and doors of the vacant house, punctuated by the rays of a rich, pale amber sky.

Brunner encapsulated her attitude toward the positiveness of her work when she said, "Everybody has a lot of stuff that's depressing. I just leave that out when I remember."



On a personal level the artist radiates a special charisma and spirit. She is certainly authentic—in harmony with her own temperament and environment. She embodies strength and character traits admired in simpler days. Independence is evidenced by the fact that she refuses to retire, legally; willing to pay more tax rather than "accept"



retirement. She's productive, painting daily, and in regular contact with museum people and educators. In a nutshell, she offers what many people today are seeking: integrity, honesty, industry, expertise, energy and simplicity.

Her paintings can be hung as a kind of totem to those traits, to be revered at will, in bright moments of nostalgic reverie.



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not approve and so the venture never took place.⁷

Eventually, the authorities decided to scatter the interned officers over the wilderness frontier. In that connection, Andre was ordered to Carlisle. Caleb Cope did not permit his son to accompany Andre. At Carlisle Andre roomed in a tavern because no one there wanted to show sympathy for an English officer. Andre still tried to convince Caleb Cope to send John to Carlisle. The rough frontier life at there caused him to lose interest in his disciple, although he continued to write Caleb Cope and to show some interest in John. Eventually he was discharged and joined the royal forces at Brunswick, New Jersey.⁸

My great-aunt, Kathleen G. Cooper (a John Cope descendant referred to below) gave me some family papers a number of years ago. Among them were hand copies of certain letters which Andre wrote to Caleb Cope. One dated April 3, 1776 is set forth here in full because of its particular relevance to John Cope:

"Sir

You would have heard from me ere this time had I not wished to be able to give you some encouragement to send my young friend



The Caleb Cope House stood at the corner of North Lime and West Grant Streets in Lancaster City.

John to Carlisle. My desire was to find a lodging where I could have him with me, and some quiet _____ family of friends or others where he might have boarded, as it would not have been so proper for him to live with a mess of Officers. I have been able to find neither and am myself still in a tavern. The people here are no more willing to harbour us than those of Lancaster were at our

first coming there. If however you can resolve to let him come here, I believe Mr. Despard and I can make him up a bed in a lodging we have in view, where there will be room enough. He will be the greatest part of the day with us or employed in the few things I am able to instruct him in. In the meanwhile I may get better acquainted with the town and provide for his board. With regard to expense this is to be attended with none to you. A little assiduity and friendship is all I ask of my young friend, in return for my good will to be of service to him, and my wishes to put him in a way of improving the talents nature hath given him. I shall give all my attention to his morals and as I believe him well dispo'd, I trust he will acquire no bad habits here.

Mr. Despard joins with me in compliments to yourself Mrs. Cope and family.

I am

Sir

Your most humble Servant

John Andre

Carlisle the 3d Apr: l 1776"

Another letter, dated April 24, 1776 mentions that Andre was about to be

exchanged and looked forward to the time when he could again offer some instruction to John Cope in art if a change in affairs permitted. In a letter dated September 3, 1776 Andre discusses some of John Cope's art work which had been sent to him with a letter from Caleb Cope, stating that the work was much improved since he left Lancaster. However he observes that he does not regret the fact that John was not sent to him because conditions had deteriorated which would have rendered John's stay "very disagreeable."

A letter dated October 11, 1776 written from Carlisle provides some detailed criticism of John Cope's work by Andre who again expresses the wish to have the lad for further instruction. Apparently, the exchange had not yet taken place but was expected shortly. With respect to his "young friend's drawings" Andre says: "He must take particular care in forming the features in faces, and in copying hands exactly. He should now and then copy things from the life and then compare the proportions with what prints he may have or what rules he may have remember'd. With respect to his shading with Indian ink, the anatomical figure is tolerably well done, but he wou'd find his work smoother and softer were he to lay the shades on more gradually, not blackening the darkest at once but by washing them over repeatedly, and never 'till the paper is quite dry. The figure is very well drawn..."

In the family papers turned over to

me by my great-aunt was found a document labeled "A Copy of Account of the "Andre" Letters by Caleb Cope a descendant of Caleb Cope _____ Cousin of my Grandfather Herman Cope
 Laura H C Ronne
 Paris October 15, 1900"

Mrs. Ronne, a John Cope descendant, is referred to below. This account states that Andre was captured on November 3, 1775 by General Montgomery and sent with other British Officers to Lancaster. Caleb Cope, a member of the Society of Friends, lived there and held the office of Burgess. He was a non-combatant, "...more disposed to yield to the pretensions of the British Government than to engage in a bloody war..." The prisoners were having trouble obtaining accommodations and Caleb Cope permitted them to stay at his house. The account goes on to say that the eldest son, John Cope, was then thirteen. He and his brothers, Thomas P., Israel, Jasper and William often played games of marbles and other sports with Andre.

Ancestors of John Cope

A short word on some of John Cope's ancestors may place him in proper historical context. His mother and father were Caleb and Mary Mendenhall Cope who were married on October 17, 1760. Mary Mendenhall Cope was the daughter of George Mendenhall and Sarah Pim. George Mendenhall was the son of Aaron

Mendenhall and Rose Pierson and the grandson of John Mendenhall and Elizabeth Maris.⁹ Rose Pierson was the daughter of Thomas Pierson, deputy surveyor general of Pennsylvania, 1684–1710 who married Rose Dixon.¹⁰

John Mendenhall was one of the original shareholders in the Concord Mills, in what is now Delaware County, and gave the land upon which the Concord Meeting House was built.¹¹ Elizabeth (Maris) Mendenhall's father, George Maris, represented Chester County in the Colonial Assembly of Pennsylvania in 1684 and thereafter until 1695. He was a member of the Provincial Council in 1695 and 1705–06 and was a justice of the courts of Chester County.¹² A recent genealogy states that Thomas Mendenhall, the father of John Mendenhall, was married to Joan Strode. It indicates that both families were of ancient and honorable lineage in England.¹³

Caleb Cope's father, John Cope (the elder) married the widow Charity Evans, born Charity Jefferis. Her father, Robert Jefferis, owned farmland of perhaps 600 acres in Chester County and another 300 acres in Lancaster County.¹⁴ John Cope the elder was a farmer and maltster in Bradford Township, Chester County. The Chester County Rates for 1768 show him as the owner of a malthouse.¹⁵ He was a member of the Bradford monthly meeting of Friends.¹⁶ By deed dated April 30, 1712 John Cope, yeoman, formerly of

New Castle County, purchased a tract of 200 acres in Bradford Township, Chester County from John Willis for 25 Pounds.¹⁷

The father of John Cope of Bradford Township, Oliver Cope, came from the town of Avebury in Wiltshire County, England and settled on Namaan's Creek in what is now the State of Delaware in about 1682.¹⁸ A petition was presented to the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania on October 29, 1696 for a road from "New Work, New Castle County, to the Oliver Cope place and those of his neighbors, and thence to Chester County."¹⁹ At the time Newcastle County was part of the Province of Pennsylvania. Oliver Cope was granted 500 acres in the colony of Pennsylvania by William Penn.²⁰ Oliver also owned 250 acres in Birmingham Township, Chester County, and a lot in Philadelphia, at the Southeast Corner of 6th and Race Streets. In the Will of John Cope our Caleb was left as co-owner with two of his brothers of a lot described as having a small house thereon and located at the North side of Arch or Mulberry Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets in Philadelphia. Perhaps this was the same lot which had been granted to Oliver.²¹ Oliver sold the Birmingham Township land in 1695.²² His Will is recorded in the Office of the Register of Wills of Philadelphia County and appears to have been probated in 1697.

According to certain sources²³ the earliest known direct ancestor of Oliver Cope was John Cope of Northampton

County, England in the 14th Century, a member of Parliament (as a Knight of the Shire) and High Sheriff of Northampton County. The English Copes include baronets, knights and members of Parliament. Some of them are considered ancestors of Oliver Cope. Sir John Cope was an English general who fought a battle against Bonnie Prince Charlie. He would not be an ancestor as the family had moved to Pennsylvania before the '45 Rebellion (in 1745).

Caleb Cope outlived his son, John. He had moved from Chester County, his birthplace, to Lancaster, lived there for some time and was a Burgess of Lancaster Borough. In later life he moved to Burlington, New Jersey. The minutes of the Burlington Monthly Meeting state that on April 15, 1814 he received a certificate from the Sadsbury Monthly Meeting and on December 6, 1819 he was granted a certificate to the Philadelphia Western District Monthly Meeting.²⁴ He died a resident of Philadelphia before October, 18, 1824. The records of the Philadelphia Register of Wills indicate that his grandson, Herman Cope, was the administrator of his estate. Herman was the son of John Cope who had predeceased his father.

John Cope

John Cope son of Caleb Cope grew up in the Borough of Lancaster. After the Major Andre relationship related above he was apprenticed to a clockmaker in

York, Pennsylvania where he married Mary Updegraff, daughter of Herman and Lydia (Heald) Updegraff on September 13, 1786.²⁵ Lydia Heald Updegraff was the daughter of Thomas and Joanna Heald. John and Mary Cope lived in York for a time and the minutes of the York Monthly Meeting indicate that they had two children, Lydia and Herman.

The Updegraffs were an old Mennonite family turned Quaker. They were among the original thirteen founding families of Germantown in 1684 sometimes known as the Crefelders because they came from the district of Crefeld in Germany. They came to Pennsylvania on the ship "Concord" which is known as the "German Mayflower." However, the family probably was originally Dutch and the name was originally spelled Op den Graef.²⁶ Mary Updegraff Cope's grandfather, Herman Updegraff, moved to York County from Chester County and held a commission as a justice of the peace and as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas for York County from King George, II dated April 25, 1751. He had a tanning, currying and shoemaking business which he left, in part, to his son, Herman, (Mary Updegraff Cope's father).²⁷ The original Updegraff immigrant ancestor was Abraham Isaacs Op den Graef who came to Pennsylvania with two brothers. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly elected from Philadelphia

County in 1689, 1690 and 1692. It is said that he was connected to the Penn family.²⁸ It appears that Abraham Op den Graef's grandfather, Herman Op den Graeff, married Greitgen Pletjes, daughter of Driessen and Alet Pletjes of Holland or Germany. Another daughter, Alet Pletjes, married John Jasper, a Rotterdam merchant. They had a daughter, Margaret Jasper, who married Admiral Sir William Penn whom she had met in London.²⁹ Of course, their son, William Penn, was the founder of Pennsylvania. If this genealogy is correct, Abraham Op den Graef would be William Penn's first cousin once removed.

It appears that John Cope was in the army during at least two periods of his life³⁰ but the identity of John Cope the soldier is elusive as there are several John Copes listed in the Pennsylvania Archives as being in the militia at about the same time. It is not known for sure which was our John, but deductive reasoning can narrow the possibilities. A John Cope was in Captain Brisban's Company of the First Battalion of Lancaster County Militia in 1782.³¹ Later (in 1794) the names Caleb Cope and John Cope appear as members of Adam Graff's Company, 1st Battalion of Lancaster County Militia.³² Also, in 1794 the name John Cope appears as a member of Capt. Ephraim Remington's Company, First Battalion, York County Militia.³³ A John Cope is also listed as a member of Capt. John Rice's Company, Thomas Mifflin's Artillery Regiment of

the Philadelphia Militia in 1794.³⁴ Probably, at least one of these soldiers was our John Cope. It seems likely that he was the militiaman of Lancaster County in 1782 and of York County in 1794. The other John Copes listed in the Pennsylvania Archives seem less likely because of their places of residence.

In 1785 John Cope appears in the records of the Borough of Lancaster as a clockmaker and in 1786 he was listed as a silversmith. In 1787 and 1789 he was again listed as a clockmaker. In 1788 he purchased a lot in Columbia and was listed as a watchmaker.³⁵ The tax list of 1790 for the Borough states that he was "gone." He may have moved to Richmond, Virginia for a time because his name appears as a watchmaker there. There is in existence today an example of his clockmaking art, an 8-day tall clock with dial believed to have been painted by Cope.³⁶

On July 21, 1790 Mary Cope, wife of John Cope, of the Sadsbury Monthly Meeting requested a certificate for herself and two children, Lydia and Herman Cope, to join the York Meeting which was granted. Sadsbury is a town located near the Lancaster/Chester County border.

John evidently moved to Philadelphia where he died. The Philadelphia Directory for 1800 states that a John Cope, last and heel maker lived at 358 North Front Street and another John Cope, tavern keeper, lived on Locust Street. It is not known which (if either) of these individuals was the son

of Caleb. The Philadelphia Monthly Meeting records state that John Cope was buried on June 13, 1803 at the age of 40.³⁷ It is likely that the record refers to John son of Caleb because he was born in 1763.

The diary of his brother, Thomas P. Cope, indicates that he was attracted to the high life and that his death was due to disease which was probably contracted during one of his tours of duty in the army.³⁸ Thomas P. Cope kindly took an avuncular interest in John Cope's two children.³⁹ His widow, Mary, remarried on June 12, 1811 to Amos James of Baltimore, Maryland where she died in 1831.⁴⁰ His older child, Lydia Cope, was born on August 27, 1787 and was married on September 13, 1809 to Samuel Jefferis, son of William and Priscilla Jefferis of Baltimore, Maryland where they resided. They had three children, viz., (1) Edward C. Jefferis, born July 29, 1810, died August 24, 1827, (2) Mary C. Jefferis, born August 27, 1812, died July 11, 1857, and (3) Thomas C. Jefferis, born December 20, 1814, died July 21, 1816.⁴¹ Mary C. Jefferis, the only child to live to adulthood, was married on December 18, 1833 to Edward Stabler of Baltimore, Maryland, son of Edward and Mary Stabler of Alexandria, Virginia. Their children were Lydia C. Stabler, born December 22, 1834 and still alive in 1861 when Gilbert Cope's genealogy was published, and Edward Stabler, born February 9, 1838, died September 16,

1839.⁴² It is not known whether Lydia C. Stabler left descendants.

Herman Cope

Herman Cope, son of John, was born on July 16, 1789. He was sometimes known as Herman U. Cope, probably named after his maternal grandfather, Herman Updegraff. He married Mary Grier on March 9, 1813 at the First Presbyterian Church in York. She was the daughter of Robert and Mary Grier who had emigrated in 1790 to Pennsylvania from Ramelton, County Donegal, Ulster, Ireland where they lived at Glen Grier. Robert Grier was the brother of Lt. Col. David Grier of Washington's Continental Army, 7th Pennsylvania Regiment.⁴³ The family of Grier is said to be a sept or division of the Scotch Clan MacGregor.⁴⁴ There is a family tradition that there was a Castle Grier in County Donegal, Ireland, belonging to the family.

At the time of his marriage Herman had moved to Baltimore and was a merchant there. According to the 1814–15 Directory his place of business was at 76 Sharp Street, Baltimore. His firm was named Eaton & Cope according to the announcement of his marriage in the York "Recorder." Subsequently, he moved to Philadelphia and appears as a director of the Bank of North America in 1826 (this bank became part of First Pennsylvania Bank and Trust Company which survives today as part of First Union National Bank). In 1825 he was

in business in Philadelphia at 165 High Street and lived at 413 Mulberry Street.⁴⁵ The Philadelphia Directories show that Herman was an officer for a number of years at the Second Bank of the United States which was depository for the funds of the United States Government.⁴⁶

After the Second Bank's Federal Charter was not renewed at the urging of President Jackson it was rechartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the Bank of the United States of Pennsylvania and still a giant enterprise for the time, and in 1844 Herman had become the rechartered Bank's Superintendent of the Supervised Debt, listed directly below the President in the Bank's slate of officers in the Philadelphia Directory for that year. His uncle, Thomas P. Cope, and his cousin, Caleb Cope, had been directors of the Second Bank, and Thomas P.'s diary reports that his nephew, Herman, represented the Bank as agent in selling "Lemon Hill" to the City of Philadelphia.⁴⁷ Herman was one of the founding directors of Western Savings Fund Society which merged with Philadelphia Savings Fund Society which in turn became part of Mellon Bank, N.A.

According to obituaries of Herman Cope's son, John E. Cope, Herman had been with his uncles in their family business, the Cope Brothers shipping firm. This firm ran a line of packet ships from Philadelphia to Liverpool in the 1800s. The wharf was located at the foot of Walnut Street on the Delaware. The firm's

packet ships were powered by sail and carried both cargo and passengers. The mainsails carried the firm's distinctive logo, a black cross. The 1850 U.S. Census lists Herman Cope, a resident of Philadelphia County, South Ward (Reel 812, p. 148), as a gentleman with real estate worth \$22,000, born in Pennsylvania, 55 years old. He was living with his wife, Mary, aged 50, George W. Cope, aged 24 and 3 others. In 1860 and 1865 he was listed as living at 1807 Vine Street.⁴⁸

Although a Quaker by birth, Herman became an Episcopalian, and attended Grace P. E. Church which used to be located at 12th and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia. He was confirmed there in 1835. Many of his children and grandchildren were baptized there at this church. The parish merged with another Episcopal parish and became known as Grace Church and the Incarnation, and is located in Kensington section of Philadelphia. Dr. Suddards, the rector at the time of Herman's conversion to Anglicanism, was known for his conversion of many Quakers to the Episcopal Church.⁴⁹ Herman Cope was for many years treasurer of the general (national) convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church.⁵⁰ Herman's younger son, George Washington Cope, was a lawyer.⁵¹ He was born on February 22, 1825 and it appears that he left no issue. He was admitted to practice in the County Court of Philadelphia on April 5, 1873.⁵²

Herman's daughter Mary Jane married Greer Brown Duncan of New Orleans, Louisiana on October 10, 1845 in Philadelphia and they were the parents of Rev. Herman Cope Duncan who was born on August 12, 1846. The child lived with his grandfather Cope in Philadelphia after his father died on June 24, 1858 in Cincinnati, Ohio on his way to Philadelphia. Herman Cope Duncan entered the ministry and became the rector of an Episcopal parish in Louisiana. He married, January 9, 1883, Miss Maria Elizabeth Cooke at Washington, Louisiana. They had two children, one died in childbirth (1884) and the other, a boy, was named Greer Assheton Duncan, born March 31, 1887.⁵³

Herman's other daughter, Sally Ann, married Joseph Richey Massey, the son of Charles and Mary Massey of Philadelphia, on April 2, 1845 and had three children, (1) Herman Cope Massey (born August 24, 1846), (2) Mary Cope Massey (born March 31, 1848, died January 18, 1859) and (3) Joseph Richey Massey.⁵⁴ Joseph R. Massey was born on October 8, 1851 and his descendants are set forth below. It is not known whether the other children left descendants. Herman Cope's obituary in the "Public Ledger," March 22, 1869 states that he was a member of the Board of Prison Inspection. An obituary of his son, John E. Cope, states that Herman was the Treasurer of the American Sunday School Union.

John Edmund Cope

John Edmund Cope, Herman's elder son, married Helen Taylor Merrick (b. February 1, 1827). She was the daughter of Samuel Vaughan Merrick and Sarah Thomas. The marriage was performed on October 4, 1849 by Dr. Suddards of Grace Church where the Merricks were also parishioners. Merrick was the first President of the Pennsylvania Railroad and in that capacity was associated with Herman Cope's uncle, Thomas P. Cope, who was one of the original founding directors of the railroad. John E. Cope was a partner in a wholesale drug and paint business for the earlier part of his business career with J. Heatly Dulles, Jr. Samuel W. Earl and John Wetherill, Jr. located at 2nd & Walnut Streets, Philadelphia. Wetherill and subsequently Earl withdrew and the firm became Dulles and Cope.⁵⁵ However, in 1860 Cope withdrew from the business and became a partner in the firm of Merrick & Sons with his brothers-in-law, J. Vaughan Merrick and William H. Merrick. The business, founded by his father-in-law, Samuel V. Merrick, was called the Southwark Foundry. They made all kinds of metal products operating on mechanical principles such as iron ships, ship engines, sugar refining machinery, steam hammers, lighthouses, etc. John E. Cope kept the books of the firm.⁵⁶

The plant was located in Philadelphia in the block between Federal and Washington Streets and Fourth and Fifth Streets. The firm also

owned and operated a boat yard at the foot of Reed Street on the Delaware River just below the old Navy Yard.⁵⁷ In 1870 after the death of S. V. Merrick the firm was sold, but the purchaser defaulted on the mortgage. The Merrick Brothers and John E. Cope foreclosed on the mortgage and the family was again in the foundry business which was later incorporated as the Southwark Foundry and Machine Company.⁵⁸ The records of the Estate of Helen T. (Merrick) Cope who died in 1905 reveal that she still held stock in Southwark Foundry and Machine Company at her death and her stock was sold by her estate in about 1911.⁵⁹ Eventually, the company was merged into Baldwin Locomotive Company and continued its manufacturing business as the Baldwin-Southwark Division of Baldwin Locomotive Company, subsequently the Eddystone Division, at Eddystone, Pennsylvania.⁶⁰

John E. Cope was a director of a number of charitable institutions including the Preston Retreat and Episcopal Hospital where he served with his brother-in-law, J. Vaughan Merrick. He was a director of the Blind Asylum and the Philadelphia Dispensary. Also, he was a director of Philadelphia Bank which later became Philadelphia National Bank now part of First Union National Bank, N.A., and was a director of the Western Savings Fund Society. He was active at St. James Episcopal Church, 22nd and Walnut Sts. He and his family lived at 1919 Arch

Street in a large brownstone townhouse which has since been torn down.⁶¹ In 1863 he joined the Union League of which his father-in-law, Samuel V. Merrick, was a founding member. The 1870 U.S. Census states his occupation as "Engineer & Machinist."

Descendants of John E. Cope

John E. Cope had five children, two of whom, Sallie Thomas Cope (born February 17, 1852, died April 6, 1856) and Samuel Vaughan Cope (born November 8, 1858, died July 20, 1871) did not survive to adulthood.⁶² His eldest daughter who survived to adulthood, Mary Grier Cope (born July 17, 1855), first married Rev. Algernon Morton, an Episcopal clergyman. The marriage was performed at St. James Church by Bishop Stevens of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Algernon Morton died on March 25, 1878 after having had one child, John E. Cope Morton,⁶³ who was born on September 19, 1877 and baptized by his father. Mary Grier Cope then married A. Howard Ritter, at St. Mark's Church, Locust Street, Philadelphia. A Howard Ritter, the son of Abraham Ritter and Rebecca K. Potter of Philadelphia,⁶⁴ was a lawyer and had an active and successful practice in downtown Philadelphia on Walnut Street. He entered Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia in 1871 at the age of 10. He and Mary lived in a brownstone townhouse at 2112 Spruce Street. At one point they also had a small farm

in Bradford Hills near West Chester, Pennsylvania and subsequently they built a large summer "cottage" in Ventnor, New Jersey known as "The Dunes." He also had enterprises in the real estate field. He used to deal with Rosenbach's in Philadelphia on behalf of clients and on his own account. I, and probably other descendants, still have items which he purchased there.

Mary Grier (Cope) Ritter died on October 27, 1916 and her will is filed in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania Will Book 46, page 284 (#31564). It was probated on Oct. 31, 1916. In it she exercised her powers of disposition under the wills of her mother and father in favor of her five children. After Mary died her husband lived with his eldest daughter, Helen, and her family at 126 Valley Road in Ardmore, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania where his wife had died. Subsequently, he remarried and moved to Bristol, Pennsylvania where he had two additional children and finally died. Mary and Howard Ritter are buried at Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania with a number of descendants.

The four Ritter daughters all married and the three eldest daughters lived for much of their lives within a half-mile of each other in Haverford, Pennsylvania. Helen's husband, Robert William. Liggett was in Robert Liggett & Co., a family steel and iron business. He enrolled at Drexel University (then Drexel Institute of Technology) for a commercial course in

1902. Dorothy's husband, B. Vail Marsh whom she married on August 24, 1909 was a real estate broker. It appears that he went to Cornell University. Margaret's husband, R. Meade Smith, Jr., was an insurance agent. He graduated from Princeton University and was a Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy in the Second World War having held the rank of Lieutenant in the Navy in the First World War. The youngest daughter, Kathleen, married Joseph L.W. Cooper of Baltimore, where she lived for all her married life. He was a stockbroker.

The four Ritter daughters left many descendants, including the author of this paper. Their half-brother, John E. Cope Morton, grew up with his mother and step-father and became a stockbroker. He married Eliza Mellon Rogers. They lived in Devon, Pennsylvania leaving a number of descendants. He was a member of the Union League.

Helen Cope (Ritter)Ligget (grandmother of the author of this paper), was a good golfer when she was younger and then took up the game of duplicate bridge in later life. She played on the bridge team of the Merion Cricket Club (of Haverford, Pennsylvania) and in numerous duplicate tournaments. She was born on March 4, 1887 in Philadelphia and died on December 20, 1977 in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. She married Robert W. Ligget who was born on January 31, 1885 in Philadelphia and died on February 3, 1946 at his

home in Haverford. She had four children. Robert and Helen Ligget are buried in a family lot in Woodlands Cemetery, Philadelphia.

Dorothy Vaughan (Ritter)Marsh (b. Sept. 1, 1888, d. Oct. 23, 1961) had two daughters. The Marshes are buried in a family lot at Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

The third sister was Margaret Price (Ritter) Smith who had two daughters and a son.

The youngest Ritter daughter, Kathleen Grier (Ritter) Cooper, married Joseph Cooper of Baltimore, Maryland and had two children. She had the knack of cultivating the friendship of famous people. For example, she was a friend of George Gershwin who sent her the original score for "Porgy and Bess." She was active in the Red Cross in Baltimore during the Second World War.

The two other daughters of John E. and Helen T. Cope who lived to adulthood also married. The second sister living to adulthood, Helen Vaughan Cope (b. Feb. 16, 1857, d. June 3, 1886) married on October 27, 1880 Charles Matthew Lea (of the medical book publishing firm, Lea & Febiger) at St. James Episcopal Church. The marriage was performed by Henry T. Morton, D.D. She died at an early age on June 3, 1886. They had one daughter, Marjorie Vaughan Lea (b. Oct. 6, 1881, d. Nov. 2, 1967), who married on May 27, 1903 Percy K. Hudson of Long Island, New York who

was a stockbroker. Marjorie Lea Hudson is buried at St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, Paoli, Pennsylvania along with her son and other relatives.

The youngest sister, Laura Hartley Cope (b. Oct. 1, 1886), married Christian Emil Ronne, a Belgian, at a ceremony at her mother's home performed by Isaac T. Nicholson who appears to have been the rector of St. Mark's P.E. Church, Philadelphia where the Copes attended for some time. The couple lived mostly in Europe. They had two children, (1) Christian Emil Ronne and (2) Helga Ronne who married Francis Hendriks. Helen T. Cope, (John E. Cope's widow) spent the final portion of her life in Paris, France probably living with Laura and Emil Ronne. Papers in my possession indicate that at one time the Ronnes lived at 83 Ave. du Bois de Boulogne, Paris. Helen T. Cope died in Paris and her remains were returned to Philadelphia where she is buried with her husband, John E. Cope, in Laurel Hill Cemetery.⁶⁵

In the interests of privacy the more remote descendants have been omitted since many are still living. Suffice it to say that they have adopted varying life styles and career patterns. Many of them live in the Philadelphia area, but others live elsewhere in the United States and in foreign countries.

Descendants of Sally Ann Cope and Joseph Richey Massey

The following information was sup-

plied by Mary Ann Bibby, one of the descendants of Sally Ann Cope the daughter of Herman Cope who married Joseph Richey Massey in 1845. The Masseys had three children, (1) Herman Cope Massey, (2) Mary Cope Massey and (3) Joseph Richey Massey (b. 1851). Joseph Richey Massey married Wilhelmina Mathison (b. 1852). Their children were (1) Mary Florence Cope Massey (b. 1873, d. 1950) who married in 1892 John Rotherman Kernan (b. 1870, d. 1950), (2) Kathryn Massey who married John Haas and (3) Helen Massey who married George McClintock. John Rotherman Kernan was with the Reading Railroad in Philadelphia. He became acquainted with A. B. Cox of Paoli, Pennsylvania, a horse breeder. As a hobby he purchased, trained and raced trotters and pacers mostly at Belmont Race Track near his home in Narberth. He was the owner of "Margaret Dillon" who later became the fastest pacer in the world. Mary Cope Massey and John Rotheram Kernan had the following children: (1) Helen Kernan (b. 1895, d. 1971) married in 1921 Clarence Gable, (2) Anne Wilhelmina Kernan (b. 1894, d. 1918), married in 1917 Albert Hinkle Nulty (b. 1886 d. 1957), and (3) Ellen Cora Kernan b. 1911) married in 1938 George Ryman (d. 1961) and married as her second husband, Carl Calkins in 1963 (d. 1998). She was the owner of Ryman Gun Dog Kennels. She was the internationally known breeder of the Ryman setter and

was affectionately known as “Mrs. English Setter” by her colleagues. For over thirty-seven years she raised and trained over 4,000 English setter puppies who were sold all over the world.

As in the case of the John E. Cope descendants the names of remote descendants are not being supplied out of concerns of privacy.

To conclude, the following letter from Porter F. Cope, Esq. which was passed on to me by my great-aunt, Kathleen G. Cooper, is set forth because it pertains to several of the points covered in the foregoing article:

“4806 Chester Avenue
Philadelphia, June 18, 1902”

My dear Mrs. Ritter:

I am exceedingly obliged to you for your very complete answer to my inquiries respecting the Andre letters. I am truly sorry that they passed out of the possession of our family, as it might have been possible to have arranged otherwise. If the opportunity arises I will try to get some of the family to again secure them. Possibly they have gone to England by this time, as a legal contest there some months ago made it necessary to secure some specimens of Major Andre’s writing. I do not now recall the details.

If there were only four letters in all, I fancy that I have exact copies of them, and these I will have incorporated in the new edition of the Life of Andre.

In your letter you speak of your sister still possessing a watercolor sketch by Andre. I did not know that you had a living sister. I would be glad to have her name and address, and would appreciate an opportunity of seeing the sketch referred to.

I have a very full pedigree of the John Cope family, which I have spent some years in compiling. It is completely proven in every line for a very great number of generations, and has been confirmed by independent investigations made by members of the family abroad. It shows that Oliver Cope was lineally descended from Charlemagne, Pepin of _____, Alfred the Great, Edward I, Henry the Fowler, Hugh Capet, _____ of Constantinople, Wolod _____ of Russia, Rollo the Viking, David I, of Scotland, Ferdinand of Castile, and a great many other notables. As the pedigree is at every point sustained by wills, descent of landed estates, heralds’ visitations, parish records, standard historical authorities, etc., it might interest you to see it at some time. If I ever have the time

to devote to preparing it for publication, I will put it within the reach of the various members of the family.

While I think of it, there is a sum of money due the branch of the family to which you belong, in connection with some war claims for a Monitor.

I don't know anything of the merits of the case or exactly what it is, and advised the attorneys in Washington to write to you. It may be worth investigating and I trust you have heard from them. Again thanking you, Very truly yours,

Porter F. Cope”



About the Author

Thomas R. Kellogg, was born in 1937 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and grew up in nearby Haverford. He graduated from Haverford School in 1954 and then attended Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts where he was a Phi Beta Kappa student, majoring in Philosophy. He went on to Harvard Law School and holds a J.D. degree from Harvard. He became a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1963 and is still in active practice in Montgomery County. He became a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of Delaware in 1991 and is retired from practice there. He is also

a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. He is a member of several hereditary societies including the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and is Secretary of three, viz.: The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, The Pennsylvania Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots and the Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania. He feels that his natural interest in history and genealogy was enhanced by his study of history, legal and otherwise, in college and law school.



Endnotes

- 1 Humphry, *Pennsylvania Births of Chester County, 1682–1800*, p. 39.
- 2 Evans, *History of Lancaster County*, 1883, p. 367;
Cope, *A record of the Cope Family*, 1861, pp. 32–3;
Flexner, *The Traitor and the Spy*, 1953, p. 141.
- 3 Wood, *Clockmakers and Watchmakers of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*, p. 28.
- 4 Flexner, *Op. cit. supra*, p. 142
- 5 *Id.*, p. 141.
- 6 *Ibid.*
- 7 *Philadelphia Merchant: Thomas P. Cope Diary* (Edited by Eliza Cope Harrison), 1978, p. 142.
- 8 Flexner, *Op. cit. supra*, pp. 142, 147–9.
- 9 Futhy and Cope, *History of Chester County*, 1881, p. 655. The co-author of this work, Gilbert Cope, was a kinsman

- of Caleb Cope and his descendants.
- 10 Virkus, *Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy*, 1925, p. 136.
 - 11 Smith, *History of Delaware County*, 1862, p. 484.
Mendenhall, *History Correspondence and Pedigrees of the Mendenhalls*, 1912, p. 174.
 - 12 *Colonial Families of Philadelphia*, 1885, p. 960;
Maris, *The Maris Family*, 1885.
 - 13 Abel, *A Mendenhall-Newlin Alliance*, 1989, pp. 152–3.
 - 14 Cope, “The Jefferis Family,” *Pa. Gen. Mag.*, vol. 10, p. 248.
 - 15 *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, vol. XI, p. 405.
 - 16 Gilbert Cope, *A Record of the Cope Family*, 1861, p. 27.
 - 17 Bryant, *Abstracts of Chester County, PA Land Records*, vol. 1, 1681–1730, 1997, p. 114.
 - 18 Cope and Ashmead, *Gen. and Pers. Memoirs of Chester and Delaware Counties*, p. 104.
 - 19 *Pennsylvania Archives*, 1st Series, vol 1, p. 499.
 - 20 *Id.*, p. 43.
 - 21 Estate of John Coope, Register of Wills of Chester County, PA, No. 2756; See Cope, *A Record of the Cope Family*, 1861, p. 29, where the author, Gilbert Cope, has the same idea. The spelling “Coope” was adopted by John, but his descendants returned to the old form, “Cope.”
 - 22 *Records of the Courts of Chester County, PA* 1681–1697, p. 361.
 - 23 See, e.g. J.C. Biddle-Cope, *Memoirs of the Copes of Wiltshire* (publ. circa. 1882).
 - 24 *Philadelphia Merchant, The Dairy of Thomas P. Cope*, p. 143; Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of Quaker Genealogy*, p. 210.
 - 25 Gibson, *History of York County*, 1886, p. 285.
 - 26 See 8 *Pennsylvania Colonial and Revolutionary Families*, p. 583 for information on this family. In Hull, *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Immigration to Pennsylvania*, p. 178 it is said that the first settlers of Germantown were really Dutch Quakers.
 - 27 Gibson, *Op. cit. supra.*, p. 432. Lutz, *History of the Op den Graef/ Updegraff Family*, 1988, pp. U-15, U-130.
 - 28 Lutz, *Op. cit. supra.*, p. U-2.
 - 29 Dunn, *The Papers of William Penn*, p. 30, n. 2.
 - 30 *Philadelphia Merchant, The Dairy of Thomas P. Cope*, p. 141.
 - 31 *Pennsylvania Archives*, 5th Series, vol. 7, p. 74.
 - 32 *Pennsylvania Archives*, 6th Series, vol. 3, p. 462.
 - 33 *Id.*, p. 1413. By that time John had probably moved from Lancaster to York having married a Yorker.
 - 34 *Pennsylvania Archives*, 6th Series, vol. 5, p. 557.
 - 35 Wood, *Op. cit. supra.*, p. 28.
 - 36 *Ibid.*

Cope Family

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

- 37 Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of Quaker Genealogy*, p. 349.
- 38 *Philadelphia Merchant, etc.*, pp. 141, et seq.
- 39 *Id.*, p. 183-84.
- 40 Cope, *A Record of the Cope Family*, 1861, p. 51.
- 41 *Id.*, pp. 51, 110.
- 42 Cope, *A Record of the Cope Family*, 1861, p. 211.
- 43 McGuire, *Battle of Paoli*, 2000, pp. 47, 101, 108, 219.
- 44 Stevens, *The Descendants of John Grier*.
- 45 *Philadelphia Directory*, 1825, p. 85.
- 46 Although the capital had moved to Washington, DC, the central bank was still located in Philadelphia.
- 47 *Philadelphia Merchant, etc.*, pp. 412, 428.
- 48 *Philadelphia Directory 1860*, p. 224, 1865, p. 155.
- 49 Twelves, *A History of the Diocese of Pennsylvania*, 1969, p. 138.
- 50 *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana*, Bio: Rev. Herman Cope Duncan, 1890.
- 51 In the 1864 Philadelphia Directory George W. Cope was listed as a lawyer at 522 Walnut Street living at 516 Marshall and in 1875 he was listed as living at 26 S. 17th Street and as a lawyer with office at 265 S. 4th Street.
- 52 Martin, *Bench and Bar of Philadelphia*, 1883, p. 259.
- 53 *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Louisiana*, Bio: Rev. Herman Cope Duncan, 1890.
- 54 Article on the Cope Family in *The North American* of April 13, 1913.
- 55 Cohen's 1860 Philadelphia City Directory lists John E. Cope as living at 27 S. 16th Street and with the firm of Dulles & Cope. The firm is included in the list of wholesale druggists in the City at p. 1035.
- 56 Brinton, *Their Lives and Mine*, 1972, p. 41.
- 57 *Philadelphia Directory*, 1865, p. 26.
- 58 *Id.*, p. 43.
- 59 Records of the Estate of Helen T. Cope, Deceased, No. 2078 of 1936, Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, PA.
- 60 Stevens, *Pennsylvania Titan of Industry*, 1948, p. 84-7.
- 61 The 1870, 1875 and 1880 Philadelphia Directories give 1919 Arch as his address. His office in 1880 was listed as 230 S. 2nd Street which probably was business office of the Southwark Foundry.
- 62 Cope, *A Record of the Cope Family*, 1861, p. 212 and handwritten family records in my possession apparently from a Bible.
- 63 See *Colonial Families of Philadelphia*, p. 17-18.
- 64 Rebecca K. Potter was the niece of Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, 3rd Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.
- 65 Helen T. Cope's Permit for Interment at Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA states that she died in Paris, France and was buried at Laurel Hill cemetery with her husband on July 5, 1907.