

The Stork (Storch) Family
OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY
Rowan County, North Carolina

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Reverend Charles Augustus Gottlieb Stork was the immigrant ancestor of the Stork family of Rowan County, North Carolina. He was born June 16, 1764 in Helmstaedt, Duchy of Brunswick. His father was George Friederick Storch, a merchant in Germany. His mother was a Von Asseburg.

Charles Stork was confirmed in 1779 at the age of 15 in the Lutheran Church, and devoted the greater part of the rest of his life to its service. He entered Julius Charles University in 1782 for three years of study. In 1785 he became a tutor to a nobleman's children for one year. He was tutor to a merchant's children for the next two years. Then he was ordained a minister by Dr. Velthusen, and sent to North Carolina.

"The young man, after due reflection, expressed a willingness to go, and at once made arrangements for his departure, at the same time receiving a written assurance from his sovereign (the Duke of Brunswick) that if, for any reason he might choose to return, he should still retain his claim of promotion in the Fatherland." (Hammer, page 47.)

He left Germany in May, 1788, and arrived in Baltimore on June 27, 1788. He stayed in Baltimore for about six weeks and then went to Charleston by sea, purchased a horse, and traveled to Rowan County, North Carolina. It took courage for a young man "educated to speak five or six languages" to travel abroad alone to a new country and his first congregation. He must have found a well-established community, as Germans had been making their homes around Salisbury since at least 1752, or for about 40 years. The Germans had come mostly from Pennsylvania down the Shenandoah valley in search of land. They had coped with the British, the Tories, and the Indians during Revolutionary days. They had established homes, churches, and places of business, and were interested in the education and religious training of their children.

On May 28, 1789 Charles Stork wrote a report to Dr. Velthusen showing that he had entered fully into the life of his new community. He was at that time pastor of three different churches, was teaching a class in Hebrew in the

academy in Salisbury, had founded a small German language school, and had about fifty children ready for confirmation in the fall. He also undertook missionary journeys. He became in a short time the leader of the Lutheran congregation; on May 2, 1803 he became the first president of the Synod of North Carolina. He served the Lutheran Church for 37 years, and was pastor of Organ Church for 35 years. It has been said that "his ability, culture, and refinement would have commanded respect anywhere, yet he declined all offers that would have taken him from among the German farmers of Rowan and Cabarrus, where he felt that he was needed most."

For two years after his arrival in America, Charles Stork boarded in the home of John Lewis Beard. He married Christine Beard, daughter of John Lewis Beard, on January 14, 1790.

Charles as a married man lived at first east of Salisbury at the Chilson place. After seventeen years he moved to a farm ten miles south of Salisbury, where he resided until his death. One report says that he moved in 1805 from his residence in Salisbury at the corner of North Main and Franklin streets to a spot on Old Concord Road near Ebenezer church. Another report says his congregation was already building a house for him in 1789, and offered to lend him money to start a plantation.

Be that as it may, the house he lived in on Old Concord still stands. It was remodeled about 100 years ago. The exterior walls were 12 inches thick.

During his long ministry, Charles Stork kept a diary. He recorded baptisms, funerals, and marriages. This diary was accidentally found when the Archives of the Lutheran Churches in North Carolina was moved from Lenior Rhyne College into the new building of Lutheran Synod Headquarters at Salisbury. Charles Stork kept his diary mostly in Latin, Hebrew, and Greek, using very little German. The diary was translated by Dr. Bost and Dr. Anderson of the Southern Lutheran Seminary at Columbia, S. C. in 1965. In his diary, Charles Stork recorded the birth of his own children as follows:

Salome born April 23, 1791

August born April 22, 1792

Stork Family
Carl born Feb. 17, 1795
Henriette born July 3, 1797
David born Sept. 13, 1798
Anna Maria born October 26, 1800
Valentine born March 22, 1803
Carl born June _____, 1806
John Ludwig born June 14, 1807
Louise born June 14, 1812
Gottlieb (Theopolis) born Aug. 10, 1814

It is believed that most of the children died in infancy.

Charles Stork died March 27, 1831. He signed his will August 19, 1830. The will mentioned first "beloved wife Christine." The second item gave "son David" a house and lot in the town of Concord worth 800 dollars. The third item cancelled a debt of 800 dollars owed by Frederick Brougher, husband of "daughter Mary Ann." The fourth item gave "daughter Louisa" 800 dollars. The fifth item gave "son Theophilus" 800 dollars. The sixth item disposed of his personal library, and was the longest paragraph in his will. His "store of books" was probably his most valuable property, or at least the closest to his heart.

The descendants of David Stork, if any, are unknown to me.

Louisa lived with her sister, Mary Ann, and lies buried with her in Mississippi.

Mary Ann married Frederick Brougher, and became the ancestress of a most interesting Mississippi family.

Theophilus became a famous Lutheran preacher in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and had issue. One of his sons, another Charles Stork, carried forward the tradition of service to the Lutheran church to the third generation.

SOURCE MATERIALS:

1. John G. Morris, D. D.
The Stork Family in the Lutheran Church
(Philadelphia, 1886)
2. Carl Hammer, Jr.
Rhinelanders on the Yadkin
(Salisbury, 1965)
3. James S. Brawley
Old Rowan Views and Sketches
(Salisbury, about 1954?)
4. The unpublished diary of Charles Stork.
5. David A. Rendleman's map of eastern Rowan showing tracts owned by the early settlers.
6. Robert W. Ramsey
Carolina Cradle
(Chapel Hill, 1964)
7. Rowan County Records
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COOPER

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

England — Maryland — Virginia — Kentucky — Tennessee — Kansas

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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 sold 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 no 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 Jacks-burg 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 Katy Sage, who was abducted by a horse thief in 1792, and was eventually found in 1848, 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,

continued on page 69
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