Whitman and Rodgers Families
of
New York
and
Greenbrier County, West Virginia

by

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

February 24, 1968
WHITMAN FAMILY of Greenbrier County, West Virginia

GEORGE WHITMAN (possibly Robert Whitman)
Died before 1793, probably in Orange County, New York.

PHEBE (maiden name not known) WHITMAN
After her first husband's death, Phebe brought her family to what is now Whitman's Draft, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, about 1793. I believe that Phebe was married for the second time in 1803, Greenbrier County, to Robert Buckhannon. Her maiden name may have been Holly.

Children of George & Phebe:

1. Julia Whitman*
   Married 1797, Greenbrier County, to Christopher Foglesong (1762-1846).

2. Ann Whitman*
   Married 1797, Greenbrier County, to Thomas Masters.
   Where did Thomas & Ann settle?

3. GEORGE WHITMAN
   Born during 1775-1784 in New York (probably Orange County). Died about 1826 in Greenbrier County. I think—but cannot prove—that he was the George Whitman who married an Elizabeth Rodgers in 1804 in Greenbrier County.

4. William Whitman
   Born 1779, Goshen Township, Orange County, New York, according to William T. Price, HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF POCOHONTAS COUNTY, Price Brothers, Marlinton, 1901, page 378. Died 1852, Greenbrier County, W. Va. Married 1807, Greenbrier County, to Elizabeth Erwin.

5. Andrew Whitman*
   Married 1808, Greenbrier County, to Elizabeth Prince.
   Where did Andrew & Elizabeth settle?

6. Holly Whitman
   Died in Jackson County, Ohio, about 1825. Married 1811, Greenbrier County, to Sally Ervin.

7. Phebe Whitman
   Born about 1791 in New York (probably Orange County). Died May, 1866, Greenbrier County, W. Va. Married 1815, Greenbrier County, to James White. Phebe's death record, which gives New York as her birthplace, is Greenbrier County death register 1-A, page 60, line 32.

*Proof is lacking that Julia, Ann, and Andrew were members of this family. They are included because their names recur in many branches of the family.

Evidence that our New York ancestor was George Whitman rather than Robert Whitman: (1) Phebe Whitman White (1791-1866) death record states that she was born in New York, daughter of George & Phebe Whitman. (2) The 1790 Orange County, New York, census lists a George Whitman but not a Robert
Whitman. (3) The fact that George is a much more common name than Robert in the Whitman family.

However, there is one piece of evidence which suggests that Robert is our ancestor. In 1911, Mr. William Henry Hull (1844– ) wrote a letter to Miss Katie Whitman (now Mrs. L. H. Hines) in which he stated: "... my great-grandfather Robert Whitman (my recollection is that his name was Robert) sold out his possessions in New York State ..." I believe that the evidence for George is stronger than for Robert, but welcome additional information on this point.

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GEORGE WHITMAN
Born during 1775-1784 in New York (probably Orange County). Died about 1826 in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. Settled at Whitman's Draft near Alvon in Greenbrier County.

ELIZABETH RODGERS
Died about 1826 in Greenbrier County. Probable wife of our George Whitman; in any event, a George Whitman & Elizabeth Rodgers were married in 1804 in Greenbrier County, Josiah Osborne officiating.

Greenbrier County deed book 20, page 298, December 30, 1853, proves that George Whitman was the father of Julia & Rebecca (below), but does not prove that he was the same George Whitman who married Elizabeth Rodgers in 1804.

Children of George (and Elizabeth?): (all born in Greenbrier County)

1. Andrew M. Whitman*
   Born about 1802. Died 1865, Nicholas County, W. Va. Probable name of wife: Eliza Ann (maiden name not known).

2. William Whitman
   Born 1806. Died 1858, Nicholas County. Perhaps was the William Whitman who married Isabella Hoover in 1828 in Greenbrier County. We know that he married Margaret Donaldson in 1833 in Greenbrier County, but not whether this was a first or second marriage.

3. George Whitman

4. Robert Whitman
   Born 1809. Died 1876, Nicholas County. Married 1839, Greenbrier County, to Elizabeth Fleshman (1818-1898).

5. Rebecca Whitman
6. Jesse Whitman*
   Born about 1811. Probably the Jesse H. Whitman who married Elizabeth Buzzard in 1844 in Greenbrier County. Does anyone know where Jesse & Elizabeth settled?

7. John Whitman*
   Born about 1814. Does anyone know whom John married and where they settled? May have been the father of William Wallace Whitman (1846-1916), whose death record in Nebraska gave his father's name as John Whitman and who addressed Rebecca Whitman Middleton as "Dear Aunt" in a letter written in 1891 from Stanberry, Missouri.

8. James Whitman

9. JULIA ANN WHITMAN
   Born 1817. Died 1903, Gilmer County, W. Va. Married in 1836 in Pocahontas County, W. Va., to James Harvey Cooper (1810-1881), son of James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell Cooper (1785-1861). Harvey & Julia were the great-grandparents of Homer C. Cooper of Athens, Georgia.

   NOTE--Julia should not be confused with her first cousin, Julia Ann Whitman (1830-1903), daughter of William Whitman (1779-1852) and wife of William Smith Hull (died 1898), to whom she was married in 1846.

10. Holly J. Whitman
    Born about 1821. Died 1894, Nicholas County. Married 1854, Pocahontas County, to Mary Elizabeth Ewing (1836-1910).

*Proof is lacking that Andrew M., Jesse, and John were members of this family. Andrew M. Whitman is included because his death record in Nicholas County gives his parents as George & Elizabeth Whitman; however, the age at death in the same death record would place his birth earlier than the marriage of George & Elizabeth in 1804; so Andrew's parentage is unresolved.

Jesse and John are included with this family because ABSTRACTS OF COUNTY COURT RECORD BOOKS--GREENBRIER COUNTY--1828-1865, a typescript volume examined at the State Department of Archives & History, Charleston, W. Va., gives the following two abstracts:

May Court 1828: "Administration of the estate of George Whitman is granted to William Whitman." Typescript (not original) page 200.

May Court 1828: "Jesse Whitman an orphan about 17 years of age and John Whitman an orphan about 14 years of age, made choice of William Whitman their Guardian for the purpose of binding them to suitable Trades which said proceedings are sanctioned by the Court and ordered according without bond." Typescript page 204.

Further evidence that Jesse and John were probably the children of George
Whitman (died about 1826) comes from the will of Robert Buckhannon (sic) of Greenbrier County, which was written in 1835 and probated in 1836 in Pocahontas County (Will Book 1, page 475). Robert devises: "I give to Jesse Whitman the boy I raised one feather bed & bedding & should said Jesse Whitman marry before my decease I allow him one cow & if not married I dont allow him the cow." (Jesse probably did not get the cow. As noted earlier, a Jesse H. Whitman married Elizabeth Buzzard in 1844.) Robert goes on to give the balance of his estate to Thomas Kerr, who served as bond for Julia Ann Whitman when she married James Harvey Cooper in 1836. I assume that this Robert Buckhannon is the same man who was the second husband of Phebe Whitman, probable grandmother of Jesse.

QUESTIONS

Dr. Homer C. Cooper, 145 Pendleton Drive, Athens, Georgia 30601, would be grateful for more information concerning any of the above Whitmans from Orange County, New York, and Greenbrier County, West Virginia. If I ever move from Athens, my current address can be obtained from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

1. Phebe Whitman was the mother of George Whitman (born during 1775-1784; died about 1826). WHAT WAS THE GIVEN NAME OF WHITMAN, FIRST HUSBAND OF PHEBE AND FATHER OF GEORGE? DO WE HAVE A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL OF PHEBE'S OTHER CHILDREN?

2. WAS HOLLY THE MAIDEN NAME OF PHEBE WHITMAN? At least eight of Phebe's descendants have had the given name Holly. In addition, Israel Holly sold land in Greenbrier County to Phebe in 1802 (Deed Book 2, pages 548-549) and Moses Shepard and wife Mary Holly sold land to George Whitman in 1805 (Deed Book 3, page 312). The Whitman and Holly names were intertwined.

3. WHEN (during 1775-1784) AND WHERE (somewhere in New York) WAS GEORGE WHITMAN BORN? WHEN DID HE DIE (about 1826, according to family tradition. He was alive when the 1820 Greenbrier County census was enumerated and his executor was named in May Court 1828)? We would like to have more exact dates for him.

4. WAS OUR GEORGE WHITMAN THE ONE WHO MARRIED ELIZABETH RODGERS IN 1804? WHO WERE ELIZABETH'S PARENTS?

5. CAN WE PROVE THAT ANDREW M., JESSE, AND JOHN WERE THE CHILDREN OF GEORGE WHITMAN (died about 1826)? See the evidence presented earlier, which is far from conclusive.

6. In 1853, several of the children of George Whitman (died about 1826) deeded
for $1 their interest in their father's land on Whitman's Draft to their brother, George Whitman (1807-1864); see Deed Book 28, page 347. The children and spouses who signed were: James H. & Julia Ann Cooper and George & Rebecca Middleton, who signed in Ritchie County; Robert & Elizabeth Whitman, William & Margaret Whitman, and Holly J. Whitman, who signed in Nicholas County. In addition, provision was made in the original (now in the hands of Mr. William Huston White, Alvon, W. Va.) for James Whitman of Logan County to sign; James did not sign and therefore he is not listed in the copy at the courthouse.

However, John & Mary Foglesong, James & Phebe Carr, and James & Phebe White, all of Greenbrier County, also signed the 1853 deed. WHY? WERE THEY ONCE THE GUARDIANS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF EARLIER GUARDIANS OF THE ORPHANS OF GEORGE WHITMAN (died about 1826)? WHY WERE THEIR SIGNATURES NECESSARY WHEN ALL OF THESE ORPHANS WERE OVER 21 LONG BEFORE 1853? I shall discuss what we know about the Carr, Foglesong, and White families involved.

KERR and CARR. We know that a Thomas Kerr signed Julia Ann Whitman (1817-1903)'s marriage bond in 1836 just before her marriage to James Harvey Cooper (1810-1881) in Pocahontas County; and that Thomas was the executor and principal beneficiary of the will of Robert Buckhannon. (Recall also that Robert "raised" Jesse Whitman.) CAN WE FIND EVIDENCE IN POCAHONTAS COUNTY OR GREENBRIER COUNTY THAT THOMAS KERR WAS THE GUARDIAN OF JULIA ANN WHITMAN?

We also know that some of the KERR family spelled the name CARR. WERE JAMES & PHEBE CARR SIGNING IN 1853 AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THOMAS KERR? This idea, for which I am grateful to Mr. George B. Arbuckle, is consistent with other evidence: (1) Thomas Kerr (born about 1801) & wife Elizabeth Foglesong (born about 1801) and family are found in Household 450 of the 1850 Pocahontas County census. According to Price's history, page 377, Thomas & Elizabeth "settled where James Kerr now (1901) resides, near the road to the top of Alleghany." (2) James Kerr & Phebe Foglesong were married in 1826 in Greenbrier County. In Household 144, White Sulphur Springs Township, of the 1870 Greenbrier County census are James Kerr (born about 1800) & wife Phebe (born about 1807) living in the household of Samuel & Elizabeth Gardner. In the next household is Thomas Kerr (born about 1827), probable son of James & Phebe. (3) In passing I should mention that the cemetery of the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, Fort Defiance, Virginia, contains the grave of a James Kerr (1800-1877), but I do not know whether he was "our" James Kerr/Carr of Greenbrier County.

The above evidence shows that the Kerr or Carr guardianship hypothesis is feasible, but does not prove that Thomas Kerr adopted Julia Ann Whitman after the death of her parents.

FOGLESONG. The John & Mary Foglesong who signed the Whitman deed in 1853 appear to have been John Foglesong (born about 1817) and wife Mary Dyche, who were married in 1840 in Greenbrier County, and were living with their children in subsequent Greenbrier censuses. I wish I knew why they were parties to the 1853 deed.
WHITE. James & Phebe White, the other two signers of the 1853 deed, were James White (born about 1787) and wife Phebe Whitman (1791-1866), who were married in 1815 in Greenbrier County. They lived on Whites Draft, the stream above Whitmans Draft. Since Phebe was the sister of George Whitman (died about 1826), James & Phebe would have been logical guardians for orphans of George. Their oldest child was George White (born 1816), perhaps named for George Whitman.

Any new evidence on any of the above six questions or any other Whitman information would be much appreciated.

Early Whitman deeds in the Greenbrier County courthouse at Lewisburg include:

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Mr. William Huston White, Alvon, West Virginia, is a great-grandson of George Whitman (1807-1864) and great-great-grandson of George Whitman (died about 1826). He now owns the Whitman homestead at Whitmans Draft and many valuable old Whitman documents. We are all indebted to him and his wife Merle for their kind assistance and generosity.

Too many others to list here have also been helpful. However, I would particularly like to thank: The late Mrs. Edna L. Campbell, Summersville, W. Va.; Mr. Andrew Lewis Riffe, Alderson, W. Va.; Mr. Charles Shetler of West Virginia University; Mr. & Mrs. Vern O. Whitman of Charleston, W. Va.; Mr. James Clark Middleton, Petroleum, W. Va.; Mr. Newman L. Whitman, Summersville, W. Va.; Mr. Okey L. Bailes, Parkersburg, W. Va.; Mr. George B. Arbuckle, Bethesda, Md.; and Mrs. Hall F. Wilson, Coxs Mills, W. Va. In mentioning these, I am undoubtedly unfair to the many others who also helped.

February 24, 1968

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601
James Cooper (1780-1845)
and
Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861)
of
Pocahontas County, West Virginia
Augusta, Rockbridge, & Bath counties, Virginia

by
Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601
August 1959
Revised April 1968
To: My Cooper Relatives

From: Dr. Homer C. Cooper, 145 Pendleton Drive, Athens, Georgia 30601

Re: Our ancestors, James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), married in 1805, of Augusta County, Virginia, and Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

This paper will be concerned with James Cooper and his wife, Nancy Agnes Wooddell, two of our ancestors of the sixth generation. My hope is that distributing this sketch will encourage you to send me additional material concerning these two ancestors. Please make suggestions concerning corrections and additions, for I plan to revise this paper for inclusion in a brief history of our Cooper, Wooddell, Whitman, and McKemy ancestors, which will be distributed among you when completed.

As was the case with an earlier paper concerning Joseph Wooddell, a major source of information for this paper has been the Wooddell family papers, now in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. I am grateful to Mr. Wooddell for permission to copy and use this material. I am also deeply indebted to Mr. Rockford N. Hamad, a native of Green Bank who now lives in Alexandria, Virginia, for introducing me to Mr. Wooddell and for sharing his extensive knowledge of the history and family relationships of Pocahontas County. Other valuable sources have been letters and conversations with members of the family, Chalkley's abstracts, Price's history, and the courthouse records at Marlinton, Staunton, and Lexington.

James Cooper (1780-1845) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia on January 16, 1780, the youngest of the four children of James Cooper (-1781) & Jean McKemy. James' father died when James was less than two years old and he was reared in the Mossy Creek section of Augusta County, according to Price. Though Chalkley abstracts adoption papers for his two brothers, I found none for James and it is therefore most probable that James was reared by his mother, Jean McKemy, at the McKemy homestead near Mossy Creek. However, I have no direct evidence to support this guess.

Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1845) was born in Augusta County, Virginia on December 13, 1785, the second child of Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) and Elizabeth (-1820). I know nothing about her childhood. However, James and Nancy may have met at the Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1768 and in which both the McKemy and Wooddell families were prominent. There is also some slight evidence that James and Nancy's mothers may have been sisters, but I do not have conclusive evidence about this possibility.

Contrary to the statement of Price, which will be quoted later, James and Nancy were not married when both moved to Green Bank soon after 1800. I do not know whether James accompanied James McKemy, his uncle, or the Wooddell family on this move; since James McKemy & Joseph Wooddell were granted land jointly, they may have moved as a single party, with James Cooper in tow. Before his marriage, James Cooper earned a part of his living at Green Bank by teaching school, according to a bill now in the Wooddell family papers in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank:

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<th>Sundry due to James Cooper for teaching school:</th>
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James Cooper and Nancy Agnes Wooddell were married at Green Bank on June 17, 1805. Since Nancy was still a minor, the marriage bond was made several days before the ceremony between James and her father, Joseph Wooddell. Green Bank was still part of Bath County at that time and thus the following bond is on file at the Bath County courthouse, Warm Springs, Virginia:

Know all men by these presents that we, James Cooper and Joseph Wooddell are held and firmly bound unto John Page esq. Governor of Virginia in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for the use of the Commonwealth to which payment will and truly to be made to the said Governor or his successors we bind ourselves our heirs executors & administrators jointly & severally firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this 11th day of June, 1805.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is shortly intended to be had and solemnized a marriage between the above bound James Cooper and Nancy Wooddell of this County, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage then the above Obligation to be void else to remain in full force:

Signed and Acknow. in presence of
JAS COOPER
JOS WOODDELL

After their marriage, James and Nancy settled near her father's homestead on a stream which is now called Cooper Run, a branch of Deer Creek, at an approximate longitude of 79° 48' 30" and north latitude of 38° 24' 45". Over the years, James acquired considerable land. Some of the boundaries of their land were specified in a deed to their son, Joseph, made shortly before James' death in 1845:

This Indenture made and entered into this nineteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and forty five between James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia of the one part and Joseph W. Cooper of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that the said James Cooper for and in the consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to him in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by him the said James Cooper hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said Joseph W. Cooper and to his heirs and assigns forever the following certain tracts or parcels of Land to wit: One tract containing one hundred and fifteen acres deeded to sd Cooper by Wm Lamb and Betsy his wife lying and being in the County of Pocahontas and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows: Beginning at 2 white Oaks corner to Soloman Conrad thence N. 60° W. 130 poles to 3 white Oaks corner to sd Conrad thence N. 73° W. 40 poles to a pitch pine or black pine S. 50° W. 54 poles to 3 black pines & Boon Tallmans line thence S. 7° W. 70 poles to a White Oak and Hickory thence S. 65° E. 96 poles to 2 Birches a branch S. 14° E. 36 poles to a pine and white oak on the top of a ridgethence S. 65° E. 100 poles to 2 Chestnuts thence N. 5° W. 109 poles to the Beginning;

Also an other tract containing seventy five acres Deeded to sd Cooper by Wm. Warrick and James Tallman lying and being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Cartmels Creek a branch of Greenbrier River and bounded as follows Beginning at 2 maples and sugar tree S. 80° E. 26 poles to a white oak and ironwood thence S. 72° E. 40 poles to 2 maples on a ridge N. 60° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks W. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 22° W. 55 poles to a white oak and hickory on the top of a hill E.
94 poles to 2 Beeches by a branch S. 11° E. 110 poles to a forked maple in a draft and down the same to N. 83° W. 60 poles to 2 ironwoods N. 84° W. 204 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract containing twenty acres adjoining the foregoing and Jacob Bible and bounded as follows to Wit. Beginning at 2 ironwoods corner to Jacob Bible and the old tract thence S. 15° E. 30 poles to 2 pines on a hill Side S. 77° E. 88 poles to 2 white Oaks N. 25° E. 16 poles to a spruce pine N. 66° W. 26 poles to a Spruce pine N. 15° W. 20 poles to a pine and white oak thence leaving sd Bibles line N. 83° W. 70 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract Containing Eighty acres deeded to sd Cooper & Jacob Dysart Thomas Lamb and his wife lying & being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows to wit; Beginning at a Sugar Tree and maple corner to Wm. Lightner thence S. 88° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 Maples on a ridge N. 62° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks N. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 28° W. 53 poles to a white Oak and hickory on a ridge N. 40° W. 58 poles to 2 white Oaks S. 72° W. 52 poles to white Oak S. 56° E. 14 poles to the Beginning on the other tract containing fifteen acres and adjoining the aforementioned tract and Deeded to sd Cooper by sd Dysart Lamb and wife.

Another tract Containing fifteen acres and Deeded to sd Cooper by James Tallman lying and being in the county and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek adjoining the lands of Solomon Conrad, Patrick Bruffy, and Boon Tallman.

Together with the appertainances belonging to sd tracts or parcels of land to the sole use and behoof of him the sd Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever, and the said James Cooper for himself and his heirs doth covenant and agree with the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs, that the said James Cooper and his heirs the said parcels of land with all the appertainances thereunto belonging to the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever against the Claim of him the said James Cooper and his heirs and all and every other person or persons whatsoever will forever warrant and defend, in Witness Whereof the Said James Cooper hath hereunto Subscribed his name and affixed his seal this day and year above written.

Jas. Cooper

Pocahontas County to wit—We Edward Ervine & Wm. Arbogast Justices of the peace in the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia do hereby Certify that James Cooper a part to a certain deed bearing date the 19th day of March 1845 and hereto annexed personally appeared before us in our County aforesaid and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed and desired not to retract it and desired to certify the sd acknowledgment to the Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas in order that sd deed may be recorded Given under our hands and Seals this 19th day of March in the year 1845.

Edward Ervine
Wm. Arbogast

James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) were the parents of nine children:

501 Elizabeth (Betsy) McKemy Cooper
Born May 21, 1806, Green Bank, W. Va.
Died May 8, 1845, Greenhill, Highland County, Va.
Place of burial not known.
Married April 4, 1844 to Samuel Woods

502 Melinda Cooper
Born December 21, 1808, Green Bank, W. Va.
Died 1894, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
Place of burial not known.
Unmarried
James Harvey Cooper  
Born July 30, 1810, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Died December 8, 1881, near Tanner, Gilmer County, W. Va.  
Buried on his farm on Jessie Run, near Tanner, W. Va.  
Married March 8, 1836, Pocahontas County, to Julia Ann Whitman  
(born September 28, 1817, Anthony’s Creek, Greenbrier County,  
W. Va.—died September 20, 1903, near Tanner W. V.—buried  
beside her husband), daughter of George Whitman, Senior.

Nancy B. Cooper  
Born July 29, 1812, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Died March 3, 1885, Pocahontas County, W. Va.  
Place of burial not known.  
Unmarried

John Thomas Cooper  
Born November 28, 1814, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Died April 9, 1878, Parkersburg, W. Va.  
Place of burial not known.  
Married October 31, 1850, near Fairmont, W. Va., to Louisa Lirpin  
Linn (born February 15, 1825, Linn’s Mills near Fairmont, W. Va.  
died February 11, 1916), daughter of Robert Linn III (1781-1834)  
& Catherine Lyon (1788-1856)

Margaret I. Cooper  
Born February 11, 1819, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Died January 25, 1895, Burnt House, Ritchie County, W. Va.  
Place of burial not known.  
Married March 12, 1844 to Enoch R. Hill  
(born January 13, 1821—died August 6, 1896, Burnt House, W. Va.),  
son John Hill (1790-1885) & Keturah Cunningham (   ).

Lucinda Cooper  
Born March 1, 1821, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Died May 27, 1886, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Buried Arbovale, Pocahontas County, W. Va.  
Married December 21, 1843, Green Bank, W. Va., to John Alexander  
Gillaspie (born December 22, 1815—died March 11, 1897, Green  
Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.).

Joseph William Cooper  
Born April 18, 1823, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Died April 29, 1898, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Buried Warwick Cemetery, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Married first 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton  
(born October 21, 1822—died July 12, 1863, Green Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.)  
Married second January 16, 1868, Bath County, Va., to Harriett A.  
Wade (born 1835—died about 1869), daughter of Henry S. Wade &  
P. Arbogast.  
Married third to Mary E. Arbogast  
(born 1845), daughter of Solomon  
Arbogast & Nancy Nottingham.

Eliza Virginia Cooper  
Born September 30, 1825, Green Bank, W. Va.  
Died April 18, 1900, Dunmore, W. Va.  
Place of burial not known.  
Married November 30, 1849, to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828).

During the period from 1800 to 1810, several lawsuits arose among the  
varying members of the McKemy family and between some of the McKemys and the children.
of James Cooper (1780-1845). These suits were engendered, apparently, because some of the McKemy uncles had purchased or managed the property of James Cooper (1780-1845) after adopting one or two of his children, then died intestate, which led to disputes between their own children and the adopted Cooper cousins. The records pertaining to these suits can be found in the Augusta County courthouse under "McKamy vs. McKamy—O.S. 147; N. S. 51—Bill, no date" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. 2, pages 127-128) and "Coopers Heirs vs. McKamy—O.S. 212; N. S. 75—Bill, May, 1809" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. II, page 167). Judging by the abstracts, these papers might contain information about the various Cooper-McKemy relationships, but I have not had an opportunity to visit the courthouse at Staunton. However, I do have a photostatic copy of a letter by James Cooper (1780-1845) to Mr. & Mrs. James McKemy, which was submitted as evidence in the Cooper—McKemy case cited above:

Dear Uncle & Aunt—These Comes to let you know that we are enjoying a Reasonable Degree of health at present and hope these may find you and your family in good health when they Come to your hand.

I have nothing material to inform you of at present only that I have Notify Andrew Kenady to attend at Staunton at Garbers Tavern on the first day of the September District Court in order to Settle the Bond I have of my fathers on him and his Brother James, I wrote him to have the Bond he said he had against my Father (that is if there is any in being) or to have the money to pay it or I should enter suit against him as I could give him no longer Indugence.

I have some thoughts of going to Tennessee State this fall if I possibly Can—and wish you if it lies in your power to get me some mony as I shall stand in need of some to bear my expences—and also I want you or Some of you to be at Garbers on the day above mention: to meet Kenaday to see if he will have the Bond or money or what he intends to do and you will much oblige your Affectate Nephew.

Mr. James McKemey

N. B. please to write to Bearer

James Cooper

July the 31st 1806

Bath County

I have compared the handwriting of this letter, which is in the Cooper-McKemy case records in the courthouse at Staunton, with samples of James Cooper's handwriting in the Wooddell family papers and there is no question but that the James Cooper (1780-1845) of Green Bank was the son of the James Cooper (1780-1845) and Jean McKemy of Rockbridge County. Other evidence supports this relationship: the Wooddell papers contain a letter from James McKemy in which he mentions going to Lexington, county seat of Rockbridge, on business for James Cooper; the oldest child of James Cooper (1780-1845) was Elizabeth McKemy Cooper; approximate years of birth for James' older siblings, calculated from adoption and apprenticeship data in Chalkley (I, 273; I, 280), are consistent with James' known date of birth.

The above letter is also interesting because James mentions the possibility of visiting Tennessee. Though James was probably reared in the Mossy Creek area, he may have spent part of his early years in Tennessee; Chalkley's abstract of the Cooper-McKemy suit papers states: "James Cooper and others of the Cooper family moved to Tennessee." A thorough examination of the papers in the Staunton courthouse would probably reveal the basis for this statement. Some of the McKemy depositions in the two suits were from Knox County, Tennessee.

In addition to farming, James Cooper (1780-1845) also served as a Bath County constable for several years. As early as 1808, he carried out court orders, according to a document in the Wooddell family papers:

Bath County to wit—Whereas Charles Doneven in said County farmer hath personally come before me Sampson Mathews one of the Commonwealths Justices assigned to keep the peace in said County and hath taken a Corporal oath that
he the Said Charles Doneven is afraid John McMahon in the Said County farmer and James McMahon the Said John McMahon's son will beat him (wound, maim, kill or do him some bodily hurt) and hath therefore prayed surety of the peace against him the Said John McMahon and James McMahon his son.

These are therefore on behalf and in the name of the Commonwealth to Command you jointly and severally that immediately upon the receipt hereof of you bring the Said John McMahon and James McMahon before me or some other Justice of the peace for the said County of Bath to find surety as well for his personal appearance at the next Court to be held for the said County as for their keeping the peace in the mean time towards Citizens of this Commonwealth and chiefly towards the said Charles Doneven.

Given under my hand and seal in the said County the fifteenth day of September one thousand Eight Hundred and Eight.

To James Cooper Constable
To Execute and Return

James apparently continued as constable for many years, since Price (pages 100-101) states concerning the formation of Pocahontas County from Bath County:

Affairs having so far progressed, the formation of a new county was mooted and due arrangements made. A resolution to that effect was passed by the Virginia Legislature, March 1821 . . . One of the most memorable days in the social and civil history of Pocahontas County was the 5th day of March, 1822, when the first court was held . . . James Cooper was appointed Constable for the Head of Greenbrier, with William Slaven and Samuel Hogsett as bondsmen.

At his death in 1845, James was apparently still serving as constable, since the men who served as his bondsmen had to settle obligations which he had not settled before his death, according to a receipt in the Wooddell papers:

Red 1 Dec 1846 of James Wooddell the acct of Patrick Bruffey Sheriff of Pocahontas County for the sum of $13.78 & also for the sum of $9.08 money paid by the said James Wooddell as one of the securities of James Cooper late Constable of Pocahontas County upon executions from the Superior Court of law & clns, for Pocahontas County in favour of the Gov. vs. said Cooper & his securities—said acct is now placed in my hands for the purpose of collecting the amt. thereof by suit of the estate of sd Cooper.

W. H. Terrill

James was a member of the Virginia militia, according to a document in the Wooddell papers:

At a Regimental Court of Enquiry held for the 127 Regiment of Virginia Militia at the House of John Bradshaws in the County of Pocahontas on the 26th day of November 1825.

Ordered that James Cooper Provost Martial to this Regiment be allowed three Dollars per day for Attending one Regimental and two Battalion Courts of enquiry during the Present year amounting in the whole to $9.

Teste

Joseph Moore C.C.E.

Apparently militia allowances were paid from fine money collected by the sheriff, for on the reverse side of the above document is the following notation:

The Sheriff of Pocahontas County will pay the within sum of Nine Dollars to James Cooper out of any money in his hands Arising from Militia fines.

John Baxter Col. Comdt.
James also served as the local assessor and one of the receipts he gave to his brother-in-law is in the Wooddell papers:

1839—James Wooddell to the Comr. of the Revenue for Pocahontas County.  
In to Entering by Divise two tracts of land on the land list 98 & 40 Acres of land Devised by Joseph Wooddell. 

Jas. Cooper Com'T Rev.

The year before his death, James prepared a will which was probated in December 1845 and can be found in Pocahontas County will book 2, page 265:

In the name of God Amen. I, James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia being week in body, but of sound mind and memory, and considering the mortality of the Human Body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my last Will & Testament, Revoking all others—First I Recommend my soul to God who gave it, my body to be Decently Buryed in a Christian like manner, and after my Burial expenses are paid, and all my other just debts are punctually paid, I Will and Bequeath the Ballance of my property both real and personal in the form following:

First, I will and bequeath to my beloved Wife Nancy Cooper all my House hold and Kitchen Furniture except such as her Daughters has made and claims, also the controle of my House and House hold during her life time or Widowhood, her choice of two clocks, and my Family Bible during her life time, and then to be left to my Daughter Malinda, provided she out lives her mother, the remainder of the Books to be equally divided between the ballance of the Heirs, I also will to my Wife Nancy Cooper, one Horse two cows and ten head of Sheep, and the Bees for the use of the Family, To my Daughter Betsy M. Cooper or her Heirs, I will and bequeath, one Sorrel Mare Saddle and Bridle, her equal proportion of Sheep, and one cow (exclusive of two cows that she claims as her own at this time), I also will and bequeath to my Daughter Malinda one Horse Saddle and Bridle one cow and her equal proportion of Sheep, also the same to my Daughter Nancy B., the same to my Daughter Margaret I., the same to my Daughter Lucinda, the same to my Daughter Eliza Virginia and to my son Joseph W. Cooper, I will and bequeath one bay colt one cow and his equal proportion of Sheep with his sisters, also my Rifle Gun & Shot Pouch, my Watch, and wearing apperl, also my Plantation with all its aperitanences, including all the Farming Utentias and Wind Mill, during the Lifetime or Widowhood, of his mother or during the single sate of any of his Sister, Provided the above named J. W. Cooper maintains his Mother during her Life time or Widowhood and his Sisters or sister while they remain Single and wish to live on the Place with him, by them giving him what assistance they can towards their own support, and after the Death or Widowhood of my Beloved Wife, and after the marriage or death of all my single Daughters, the Plantation, is to be sold, Provided it brings what any three disinterested Free holders may say it is worth, the appraisors to be chosen by the Heirs living on the Plantation at that time, provided they can agree, if not, they are to be appointed by Court, and if my son J. W. Cooper complies with the above, He shall have two hundred dollars out of the price of sd. land and an equal Portion with his sisters, also all my interest in the Mountain Lands and Farming Utentias which is on or belonging to the Farm at that time exclusive of the Horse, Cow, Sheep, Gun, Watch and Cloaths, before mentioned, but if my son J. W. Cooper does not choose to mantain his mother and sisters as above mentioned, then my Beloved Wife is to have the Farm and Farming utentias during her life or widowhood for the benefit of her and her single daughters or in case of the death of her son J. W. Cooper while he is single, she is to have the same controle as if he should refuse to support her and her single daughters as above mentioned—To my son James H. Cooper, I will and bequeath Fifty Dollars out of the price of said land when sold, by deducting the Principal, without its Interest of a note which I hold on him out of sd. Fifty Dollars—I also Will and Bequeath to my son John T. Cooper Fifty Dollars out
of the price of sd. land when sold, and if sd. J. T. Cooper chooses he may have the surveyors Instruments at Thirty Dollars out of sd. Fifty Dollars and to have the same any time after my death.

Lastly I constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Nancy Cooper and my son Joseph W. Cooper Executrix and Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Thirty first day of August Eighteen Hundred and forty four and 69th year of the Commonwealth.

WITNESSES PRESENT
Boone Tallman
John A. Gillaspie
Jacob Bible

I do not know whether any of the objects mentioned in James' will, including the family Bible, are still in existence. I have had some correspondence with one of the descendants of Joseph William Cooper, but he does not know of anyone who has family heirlooms or papers. Since none of James' descendants now live in Green Bank, most of this material was probably destroyed or widely scattered when the various moves took place. Since Malinda, who never married, was living with her sister, Eliza Virginia Cooper Kerr, and family in 1870, according to the 1870 census, it may be that someone among the Andrew W. Kerr descendants has the family Bible and other objects.

James Cooper died on November 8, 1845. His son, Joseph William Cooper, operated the family farm and supported his mother until her death on November 29, 1861. During our brief visit to Green Bank in 1958, Mr. Hamed and I were unable to locate the graves of James and Nancy, but we did not have time to make extensive inquiries in the neighborhood or to search the old family homestead.

Price (pages 476-479) has written a sketch entitled "James Cooper", which I will reproduce in full, even though some of it duplicates my previous remarks, because Price's book is not easy to obtain, particularly outside West Virginia:

During most of the 19th century the Cooper name has been familiar in our region. James Cooper, the progenitor of the Cooper relationship, was a native of Augusta County, and was reared in the Mossy Creek section of that great County. Having married Nancy Agnes Wooddell, he came over with the Wooddells, very early in the settlement of the upper section of our county, and opened up property now (1900) owned by Robert N. Gum, near Greenbank, then known as Piney Woods. They were the parents of four sons and six daughters.

Elizabeth Cooper became Mrs. Woods, and settled at Greenhill, Highland County.

Margaret became Mrs. Enoch Hill and lived in Ritchie County. Her daughter Harriet became Mrs. Fling, and lived at Flag, Ohio. Nannie became another Mrs. Fling, and lived in Ritchie County.

Jane Cooper became Mrs. Andrew Kerr and lived near Dunmore. Her daughter Nannie became Mrs. Washington Hoover; Anne, now Mrs. Raymer Davis, near Greenbank; Caroline, now Mrs. Gatewood Sutton, at Durbin. Her son William Kerr in Pocahontas, and John Kerr lives in Lewis County.

Lucinda Cooper became Mrs. John Alexander Gillespie, late of Greenbank. Her children were Taylor, Amos, and Wise, the three sons. Her daughters were Nancy, who became Mrs. George Beverage; Rachel, now Mrs. Henry Sheets, near Dunmore; Margaret, now Mrs. John L. Hudson, near Louise, Mary now Mrs. George Sheets, and Martha.

Nancy and Melinda are the names of James Cooper's other two daughters. Thomas Cooper died in youth.

John T. Cooper married in Marion County. He was a popular physician.
He resided a number of years in Parkersburg and then at Claysville, where he
died in 1878. His daughter, Flora, teaches school in Parkersburg. His son
James a foreman in machine shops at Parkersburg and other points. Another
son, Arthur, is a Presbyterian minister in Illinois, and there are three
children deceased. Dr. Cooper read medicine with the late Dr. Strather, of
Warm Springs. He was prominent in church circles, being a ruling elder of a
Parkersburg Presbyterian congregation.

James Harvey Cooper married Julia Ann Whitman, of Greenbrier County.
They were the parents of five sons and three daughters. The daughters were
Agnes who died in 1861, Julia Ann, and Rebecca. In reference to the sons
we have this remarkable but sad record. They were all Confederate soldiers.
Robert died in the war. James lost an arm in battle. John and Charles were
each severely wounded, and George was killed in 1864 in battle near Fishers
Hill.

Joseph W. Cooper married Rachel Tallman Sutton, and lived near Greenbank
They were the parents of four sons and one daughter: Rachel, George Clark,
James Amos, John William, and Charles Calvin. In 1863 in the course of three
weeks the diptheritic scourge removed the mother, her daughter, and three
sons by death. J. W. Cooper's second marriage was with Harriet Wade of Bath
County. She lived about one year. His third marriage was with Mary Arbogast,
near Glade Hill. Snowden, Walter and Vivian were the children of this mar-
riage.

The writer would hereby cheerfully acknowledge the thanks due George C.
Cooper for assistance rendered by him on the wayside, July 1, 1901, when we
casually met near Marvin Chapel and took notes under an apple tree, the ther-
ometer 96 degrees. Without the data given by this grandson of the venerable
pioneer this sketch could not have been prepared and the name of a most wor-
thy pioneer would have been overlooked.

James Cooper's name appears in the organization of the county as one of
the constables appointed. He served the public as magistrate, assessor, and
teacher of schools. He was regarded with high esteem for his honest and ele-
vated character in social and business relations. He was a prominent member
of the Liberty Church in the early history of that historic congregation, and
his influence was ever for good morals, intelligence, and refinement of man-
ers, himself being a fine specimen of what is termed "a gentleman of the
old school", and was noted for his polite and gracious manners, correct and
entertaining conversational powers.

We are indebted to Price for the above sketch. However, some minor errors
should be corrected. James Cooper was born in Rockbridge County and married Nan-
cy after coming to Green Bank. James Harvey Cooper had eight sons, five of whom
were Confederate soldiers, and three daughters. With regard to these children,
Charles was captured rather than wounded, George was killed July 15, 1864, in
Loudoun County, Virginia, rather than at Fishers Hill, and Agnes died in 1856.

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Marlinton, West Virginia: Price Brothers, 1901.
Lowther, Minnie K. HISTORY OF RITCHIE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Wheeling, W. Va.:
Miller, Thomas C., & Maxwell, Hu. WEST VIRGINIA AND ITS PEOPLE. 3 Volumes. New

If several years from now I have moved persons
desiring to correspond about the history of the family can obtain my current
address from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or from the
Alumni Office, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton Families

of

Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia
York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania
Blount, Knox, & Roane counties, Tennessee
Pocahontas, Gilmer, & Ritchie counties, West Virginia
Wayne County, Kentucky
Vigo & Sullivan counties, Indiana
York County, South Carolina

by

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

January 1, 1969
Our family is preparing a Cooper & McKemy family record and would appreciate information concerning the Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton families discussed below.

James Cooper (died 1781) & wife Jean McKemy

We are especially interested in information about James Cooper (died 1781) and Jean McKemy, his wife, who lived in Augusta County & Rockbridge County, Virginia, where James died in 1781. The will and estate records of James Cooper mention four children:

1. John Cooper
   Born about 1771-1772. Apprenticed as a tailor, 1785-1789, and followed the tailoring trade for several years afterward. We have documentary evidence that he was living in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1801 and 1807, but no information as to whether he settled there permanently or married and had children.

2. Nancy Agnes Cooper
   Born about 1775. Married after 1795 to William Gothard; settled in Georgia (where?); and had at least one son, John Cooper Gothard. Nancy Agnes died before 1809 and her brothers lost contact with her husband and son.

3. Thomas Cooper
   Born about 1777. Adopted in 1793 by his uncle, James McKemy. Married March 7, 1798, Augusta County, Virginia, to Elizabeth Wilson, daughter of Robert Wilson. No further record of Thomas & Elizabeth.

4. James Cooper (1780-1845)
   Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1780; settled at Green Bank, formerly Bath County, Virginia, now Pocahontas County, West Virginia, about 1802; and died at Green Bank in 1845. Married in 1805 to Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), daughter of Lt. Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) of Green Bank. James & Nancy were my great-great-grandparents. I have considerable information about them and their children which I would be happy to share.

We have no further information about James Cooper (died 1781) and would particularly like to know the names of his parents. We also would like to know more about John, Nancy Agnes, and Thomas: their dates and places of birth, marriage, and death; their spouses and children; and where they settled.

McKemy & Ferrell/Farrell

Jean McKemy was the daughter of John McKemy (died 1789) of Augusta County, Virginia. Her brother, James McKemy (born 1753), settled in Blount County, Tennessee, about 1787-1792 and applied for his Revolutionary War pension there in 1832. After the death of her first husband, James Cooper (died 1781), Jean married again, during 1781-1787, to a Mr. Ferrell or Farrell. We do not know the given name of Mr. Ferrell(Farrell), but suspect that he was the John Ferrell who purchased several items when the estate of James Cooper was sold in 1783.

Mr. Ferrell and Jean have not been found in all the records we have searched. The only two possibilities, neither confirmed, have been:

1. Wilkes County, Georgia, Deed Book HH, page 110, records that a John Ferrell and wife Jean sold 200 acres on Fishing Creek to William Low in 1790. We have no evidence that this John & Jean are our Ferrells...
and would welcome any information you may have which would prove that they are or are not our people.

2. The third wife of James Ferrell (1732-1808) of Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, and Halifax counties, Virginia, was named either Jean or Jane. We have no evidence that his Jean or Jane was our Jean and would appreciate any information you may have about them.

We would certainly be grateful for any data you may have about Jean and Mr. Ferrell/Farrell. Except for the two possibilities mentioned above, they seem to have "disappeared" from the records!

William Cooper (died about 1796) of Pennsylvania

William Cooper of York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania, died about 1796. His daughter Eleanor married a McKemy and we suspect--but cannot prove--that William Cooper (died about 1796) was related in some way to James Cooper (died 1781) of Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia. We think that William Cooper lived in what is now the Mount Pleasant Township of Adams County, but have not located his grave. From Virginia courthouse and personal records--we have not searched Pennsylvania records--we know that William Cooper was married at least twice (but not the names of his wives) and had at least five children (but not the order of their births):

1. James Cooper

2. William Cooper
   Living in 1808, but we do not know where.

3. John Cooper
   No data on him, unless he was the John Cooper in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1854.

4. Eleanor Cooper
   Married John McKemy (died about 1793), brother of my great-great-great-grandmother, Jean McKemy, wife of James Cooper (died 1781) and Mr. Ferrell/Farrell. Eleanor & John settled in Augusta County, Virginia.

5. Mary (Polly) Cooper
   Married Jacob Patton. Settled in Knox County, Tennessee.

If you have information about William Cooper (died about 1796) of York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania, particularly whether he was related to James Cooper (died 1781) of Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia, we would certainly like to hear from you.

Final Note

Thank you very much for any help you may be able to give us. We want to share any Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton data we have with you. If I ever move, my current address can be obtained from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

January 1, 1969

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601
We have additional Cooper and McKemy information, relevant for our search but not easily placed within the context of our presentation above, which is presented below, followed by comments and questions:

In 1775, James Cooper (died about 1781) sold a mare for thirty pounds to Thomas Cooper.

"June ye 4th 1777. Then Recd. of James Cooper the Sum of Six pounds part of the money which William Cooper sent by Isaac Taylor from fort Randolph per me.

Richard X Magee

mark

WHERE WAS FORT RANDOLPH LOCATED?

No date, but presumably during 1772-1779: James Cooper (died 1781) paid the debts of a John Cooper to Andrew McCampbell, George Reeve, James Young, Mary Kinkum, and Joseph Shanks.

In 1779, James Davies and wife Mary of Rockbridge County sold to Thomas Cooper of Rockbridge County, for 200 pounds, 102 acres on the forks of James River in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

In 1779, William McKemy and wife Ann of Rockbridge County sold to John Cooper of Rockbridge County, for 22 pounds, 90 acres on Kerrs Creek. Witnesses: James Cooper, William McCampbell, & William McMath.

In 1782, the inventory and appraisement of the estate of James Cooper (died 1781) included two Bibles. When the estate was sold in 1783, these Bibles were not included in the sale. WHERE ARE THESE BIBLES TODAY? They may have important birth, marriage, and death data.

In the hand of John McKemy, undated but presumably about 1783: a piece of paper headed "The Estate of James Cooper Decd. To Thos. Cooper." The first item under the heading reads: "To Cash paid to John Gilmore for Wm Cooper to order of Jas. Cooper."

In 1785, a piece of paper, the face side of which reads:

Gentlemen—If any of you can Spare Some Cattle to Mr. Robert Rush Let him have them upon my Acct. and take his Rct. for the Value he Receives them at and I will Give you Credit on your Bonds for the Same for I Owe him and cannot Get the money for him, and he agrees to take Some Cattle in part for what I Owe him. yr. Compliance will Oblidge Gentln. yr. Hum. Servt.

Sept. 12th 1785

John McKemy

To Messrs. John Cooper, Thomas Cooper, Joseph Thompson & Alexander McKemy

On the reverse side of this same piece of paper are two additional statements, the first of which is:

State of Tennessee // This day Isabella Cooper Came before us
Blount County // John Tedford and William Gault two of the
Justices of the peace of Said County and made oath that the five
pounds fifteen Shillings Receited for here is part of an arbitration
between John & James McKemy Excrs. for the Estate of James Cooper
Decd. and Thomas Cooper.

John Tedford
William Gault
The second of the two statements on the reverse side reads:

September the 14 1785—Received of Thomas Cooper five pounds
fifteen shillings. Recd. by me

Robert Rusk

During 1787-1795, a John Ferrell of Knox County & Hawkins County, Tennessee,
was grantee for several parcels of land recorded in Knox County deed books,
including a grant by the State of North Carolina ("Copied from Book B,
Page 89, Grant 275"). WAS THIS JOHN FERRELL THE SECOND HUSBAND OF JEAN McKEMY,
WIDOW OF JAMES COOPER (died 1781)?

On September 20, 1785, in Augusta County, Virginia, John Cooper, "Son to James
Cooper Deed. . . . and By the Consent of his Guardian John McKemy," was appren­
ticed to Thomas Hinds, a tailor. The indenture was witnessed by Benjamin Norton,
John Middleton, and Eleanor Cooper.

In 1792, Thomas Cooper and wife Isabella of Rockbridge County sold to John
Wilson, for 100 pounds, 100 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

In 1796, John Cooper and wife Agnes of Rockbridge County sold to Robert Piper,
for 100 pounds, 90 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

Undated, in the hand of John McKemy: a paper headed "Thomas Cooper dr. To Jas.
Cooper Estate" includes "To Cash paid When Going to Pitts Burgh, five pounds"
and "To 1 Journey to Pennsylvania, three'pounds ten shillings." WHAT RELATIVES
DID THOMAS COOPER (born about 1777) HAVE IN PITTSBURGH AND PENNSYLVANIA?

In 1801, John Cooper ("heir to William Cooper, deceased") of Rockbridge County,
Andrew Graham and wife Elizabeth ("mother to said heir") of Rockbridge County,
and William Youel of Augusta County sold to George Wilson, for 300 pounds, 240
acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on Little Calf Pasture River.

In 1811, in Blount County, Tennessee, Isabella Cooper and Agness Townsley
answered questions, under oath, concerning when and how long John Cooper (born
about 1771) had lived in the household of his uncle, John McKemy, after the
death of his father, James Cooper (died 1781). Apparently John Cooper lived
in the McKemy household until June 1784.

In 1814, a William Gothard was a grantee in Knox County, Tennessee, deeds and
in 1815 a William Goddard & Jane S. Campbell were married in Knox County. WAS
HE THE WILLIAM GOTHARD WHO WAS THE HUSBAND OF NANCY AGNES COOPER (born about
1775; died before 1809), daughter of James Cooper (died 1781)?

Comments and Questions

The information above raises many issues which are relevant for our search for
Cooper and McKemy relationships.

Unfortunately, we have not had an opportunity to search for the William Cooper
(died about 1796) estate records in Adams & York counties in Pennsylvania,
which might clarify many of the relationships among persons presented above.
From the 1775, 1777, 1772-1779, and 1779 data above, we conclude that James
Cooper (died 1781) had not only sons named John, Thomas, and James (who were
either not born or too young to have been involved in those early transactions)
but also other relatives, probably the William Cooper family of Adams & York
counties, by those given names.

The 1801 Rockbridge County data suggest that a William Cooper (dead by 1801)
had a son John and apparently a widow Elizabeth whose second husband was Andrew Graham. WAS THIS WILLIAM COOPER OUR WILLIAM COOPER (died about 1796) OF ADAMS AND YORK COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA? If yes, DID WILLIAM DIE IN ROCK-BRIDGE OR AUGUSTA COUNTY RATHER THEN ADAMS OR YORK COUNTY?

Apparently Thomas Cooper (born about 1777) was living in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1785, at which time he was about eight years old and the ward of Isabella Cooper. HOW WAS ISABELLA RELATED TO THOMAS AND TO HIS FATHER, JAMES COOPER (died 1781)? WAS ISABELLA COOPER OF BLOUNT COUNTY IN 1785 and 1811 THE SAME ISABELLA COOPER WHO WAS THE WIFE OF A THOMAS COOPER IN ROCK-BRIDGE COUNTY IN 1792? If yes, HOW WAS HER HUSBAND THOMAS RELATED TO HER WARD, THOMAS COOPER (born about 1777)?

HOW—if at all—WAS AGNES TOWNSLY—WAS IN BLOUNT COUNTY IN 1811—RELATED TO THE COOPER AND MCKEMY FAMILIES?

In 1785, an Eleanor Cooper witnessed the indenture of John Cooper (born about 1771), son of James Cooper (died 1781) and ward of John McKemy. WAS SHE THE ELEANOR COOPER WHO MARRIED JOHN MCKEMY AND SURVIVED HIM? If yes, WAS THIS MARRIAGE A SECOND MARRIAGE FOR JOHN MCKEMY?

Thank you very much for your help. We are grateful for your assistance.

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

Any change in my address can be obtained from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. I would be happy to hear from Cooper & McKemy families at any time!

My cousins and I are descended from James Cooper (1780-1845), youngest child of James & Jean, and wife Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. James & Nancy had nine children: (1) Elizabeth McKemy Cooper (1806-1845), married 1844 to Samuel Woods; settled at Greenhill, Highland County, Virginia. (2) Melinda Cooper (1808-1894), never married; lived in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. (3) James Harvey Cooper (1810-1881), married 1836 to Julia Ann Whitman (1817-1903); settled near Tanner, Gilmer County, West Virginia; their son, Charles Slavens Cooper (1844-1921), was my grandfather. (4) Nancy B. Cooper (1812-1885), never married; lived in Pocahontas County. (5) John Thomas Cooper (1814-1878), married 1850 to Louisa Lirpin Linn (1825-1916); settled at Parkersburg, West Virginia. (6) Margaret I. Cooper (1819-1895), married 1844 to Enoch R. Hill (1821-1896); settled at Burnt House, Ritchie County, West Virginia. (7) Lucinda Cooper (1821-1886), married 1843 to John Alexander Gillaspie (1815-1897); settled at Arbovale in Pocahontas County. (8) Joseph William Cooper (1823-1898), married 1st 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton (1822-1863); married 2nd 1868 to Harriett A. Wade (1835-1869); married 3rd 1869 to Mary E. Arbo- gast (born 1845); settled at Green Bank in Pocahontas County. (9) Eliza Virginia Cooper (1825-1900), married 1849 to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828); settled at Dunmore in Pocahontas County.

If you have old Cooper, McKemy, or Wooddell records, such as letters, Bibles, deeds, etc., concerning any of these families, I would certainly be grateful if you would write to me.
Since preparing the above statement, I have learned from two other Cooper searchers, to whom I am much indebted, that Wayne County, Kentucky, and Vigo & Sullivan counties, Indiana, are relevant:

1. Frederick Cooper was born in 1759 in York County, Pennsylvania, from which county he first served in the Revolution; in 1780, he moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, where he served again; and in 1799 moved to Wayne County, Kentucky. Frederick Cooper (1759-1) married in 1783 to Dorothy Brown, by whom he had the following children (with years of birth): Katy, 1784; Anne, 1786; Henry, 1790; John, 1793; William, 1795; Abraham, 1798; Isaac, 1805; and Jacob, 1808. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF FREDERICK COOPER?

2. James Cooper and wife Mary Werr were living in Blount County, Tennessee, when their son, Alexander Cooper, was born in 1817. In 1823, the family moved to Sullivan County, Indiana; in 1824, they moved to Vigo County, Indiana, where both James & Mary died in 1855. Alexander Cooper married Elizabeth McGriff in 1842, was a member of the Christian Church, and served two terms as county surveyor in Vigo County. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF JAMES COOPER (died 1855)? WHEN AND WHERE WAS JAMES BORN? DID JAMES AND MARY HAVE OTHER CHILDREN?

Several other miscellaneous notes seem worthy of inclusion in our summary of Cooper & McKemy families:

3. In 1795, James Cooper and wife Hannah of York County, Pennsylvania, conveyed to John McKemy of Augusta County, Virginia, for 110 pounds, 110 acres on both sides of the North River of "Shenando" in Augusta County. Witnesses: William McKemy, Eleanor McKemy, William Walker, Jr. WAS THIS JAMES COOPER THE JAMES COOPER (died during 1796-1807) WHO WAS A SON OF WILLIAM COOPER (died about 1796) OF PENNSYLVANIA?

Also, the Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania, contains the graves of a Hannah Cooper (1756-1822), Thomas J. Cooper (1797-1875) and wives Margaret & Elizabeth, and Martha Toot Cooper (1818-1871). WAS HANNAH COOPER THE WIFE OF JAMES COOPER?

4. According to a history of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, John Bradshaw (1758-1834) "married Miss Nancy McKamie, in the vicinity of Parnassus," before moving from Augusta County to Pocahontas County. WAS NANCY'S FULL NAME NANCY AGNES MCKEMY? WAS SHE THE DAUGHTER AGNES MENTIONED IN THE WILL OF JOHN McKEMY (died 1789) OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, WHO ALSO MENTIONED A GRANDSON, JOHN BRADSHAW, IN HIS WILL?

5. The will of James McKemy, Sr., written in 1817 and probated in 1818 in Augusta County, Virginia, left to wife Agnes and the following children: James McKemy (who inherited his father's plantation), Jane McKemy ("one half of My Greenbrier plantation, consisting of more than Three Hundred acres"), Nancy Hogshead, John McKemy, and Polly Hirdman. One clause states:

Again as to the law suit respecting the Negrows now depending in the state of N. Carolina, should the result prove favorable my will is that my son, James, should satisfy himself for his Trouble and expence and divide the Ballance equally among all the rest of my children.

WHAT NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY WAS THE SITE OF THE SUIT?
6. The Old Providence Church cemetery in Rockbridge County, Virginia, contains these four graves, lying consecutively in the same row: Robert Cooper (1738-1816); Susanna Cooper (1742-1817); John Cooper, died March 1, 1828, 57th year; and Margaret Cooper (1774-1847). I assume that John was the son of Robert & Susanna but, on the other hand, COULD HE HAVE BEEN THE JOHN COOPER (born about 1771) WHO WAS THE SON OF JAMES COOPER (died 1781)? Two other Cooper graves, some distance away, are in the cemetery: Susan A. H. Cooper (1778-1838), wife of Joseph Cooper; and Robert Cooper (1805-1840).

7. I have an incomplete note about a John Cooper who was born in 1777, Rockbridge County, Virginia; died 1861, Blendon, Ohio; served in the War of 1812; and married Polly Craig. WHOSE SON WAS HE?

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A generous and keen-eyed friend found a connection between Cooper families in York County, Pennsylvania, and York County, South Carolina:

8. The will of a John Cooper, written in 1812, probated 1824 (place not determined), mentions the estate of his deceased father (not named in the will) in York County, Pennsylvania. John also names wife Elizabeth and children: Margaret, Robert, Elizabeth Davidson, William, John, and Mary Wallace. WHO WAS THE FATHER OF THIS JOHN COOPER?

This family is found again in the will of Robert Cooper, probated in 1842 in York County, South Carolina. Since his wife Mary predeceased, Robert left his estate to: John Cooper, a brother in Kentucky; James Cooper, a brother in Georgia; William Cooper, a brother in Tennessee; Mary Wallace, a sister in Virginia; Elizabeth Davidson, a sister in Yorkville, South Carolina, to have the plantation where Peter Harris lives; niece Jane Ferguson of Kentucky, daughter of brother John; niece Elizabeth Powell of Virginia, daughter of sister Mary Wallace; niece Mary Eliza Alston and her two children of South Carolina; nephews Robert Cooper and John Cooper of Tennessee, sons of brother William. Mentions his plantation in York County, South Carolina, "where Stephen Belk lives."
Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834)

of

Augusta County, Virginia
Bath County, Virginia
Pocahontas County, West Virginia

by

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

July 1959
Revised April 1968
To: My Wooddell Relatives

From: Dr. Homer C. Cooper, 145 Pendleton Drive, Athens, Georgia 30601

Re: Our ancestors, Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) and wife Elizabeth of Augusta County, Virginia, and Pocahontas County, West Virginia

As many of you know, I am preparing a brief paper concerning the history of our Cooper, Wooddell, Whitman, & McKemy ancestors, & plan to distribute copies among you when it is completed. I hope you will read this rough draft carefully & let me know if you have suggestions or additional material to add.

This paper will be concerned with Joseph Wooddell and his wife, Elizabeth, two of our ancestors of the seventh generation. My principal source of information concerning them consists of the Wooddell family papers, now in the possession of Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. I had the pleasure of cordial visits with the Wooddell family in September, 1958, and am grateful to them for granting permission to copy the family documents quoted hereinafter. I am also deeply indebted to Mr. Rockford N. Hamed, a native of Green Bank but now a resident of Alexandria, Virginia, and his parents for very generous hospitality, including driving me from Washington to Green Bank, introducing me to the Wooddells, sharing their home and extensive knowledge of Pocahontas County, and making the visit to Green Bank enjoyable in every possible way. Any merit this section has is due to the generosity of the Hameds and the Wooddells.

In addition to the Wooddell family papers, several other sources have been consulted: a file in the National Archives concerning Joseph's Revolutionary War Services, Joseph's will in the Pocahontas County courthouse, U. S. census records, and scattered references in Chalkley and Price. In quoting from these sources I will spell the family name as rendered by the county or census official or family member who prepared the document under consideration at the moment, so the reader will find Woodle, Woodell, Waddle, and other variations scattered throughout the following pages. Joseph himself used the form "Wooddell" consistently for his signature and this spelling is used on the headstone over his father's grave.

I also received information by correspondence from members of the family too numerous to acknowledge by name. I hope they will consider this essay part payment for their kindness.

Joseph Wooddell was born about 1752, but I cannot establish the exact date or place of his birth. He gave his age as 80 in his sworn declaration of 1832 when qualifying for a Revolutionary War pension. He probably was born in Augusta County, Virginia and at least spent most of his early years there. Thomas Wooddell, Jr. (1759-1839), a younger brother of Joseph, testified that he (Thomas) was born in Augusta County in August, 1759, in his own declaration for a pension, so I am certain that if Joseph was not born in Augusta County, he at least was living there by the time he was seven years of age. If I can judge by land transactions abstracted in Chalkley and other evidence, the Wooddells must have lived in the North River District of Augusta County.

Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) was the son of Thomas Wooddell, Senior, and Alese (or Elise) Wooddell. Considerable information concerning Thomas, Sr., can be obtained by consulting references to him under various spellings of the family name in the indexes to the Chalkley volumes, and I suspect that a great deal more could be learned by examining the original documents referred to in the Augusta
County courthouse and the church records of the Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church (founded 1768), the Tinkling Spring Meeting House, and the Bethel Meeting House. According to the abstracts in Chalkley, Thomas, Sr., and Elisa had the following children: James, Joseph (1752-1834), Thomas (born Augusta County, August, 1759; died Mason County, February 20, 1839), John (living Augusta County as late as 1833), Elizabeth, Martha, Jane, a fourth daughter, and possibly another son. In 1958, Mr. Rockford N. Hamed and I paid a brief visit to the cemetery of the Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church at Mossy Creek in the North River District section of Augusta County and found a headstone with the following inscription carved in crude but easily read letters: "Thomass Wooddell, died 1785, age 75". Over the years the monument had sunk so far into the ground that we could not determine whether similar information was given for his wife. According to Chalkley (I, 171), which cites Augusta County Will Book 6, page 429, the will of Thomas Waddle (Waddell), Sr., was written on September 5, 1784, and proved October 19, 1784, so it appears that the father of Joseph died in 1784. With regard to the discrepancy in the dates of death, I am inclined to believe that the engraver at Mossy Creek made a mistake of one year on the stone rather than that there were two elderly persons named Thomas Wooddell who died a year apart. Raising the sunken monument to determine whether the wife's name is given on the bottom half would provide one possible resolution to this issue.

Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) enlisted in the militia and saw service in the Revolutionary War. The National Archives in Washington D.C., has a file containing documents submitted many years later in support of his successful application for a pension under the act of June 7, 1832. One of the documents in this file is a series of sworn statements on his behalf, the first of which was made before the court of Pocahontas County in 1832 to describe his service:

State of Virginia, Pocahontas County—At a Court held for Pocahontas County at the Court house thereof on the 4th day of September 1832 before the justices of the peace of the said County—Present—Benjamin Tallman, William Cackley, Robert H. Beale and Jacob Lightner gentlemen Justices.

State of Virginia, Pocahontas County—On this 3rd day of September 1832 personally appeared before the subscribers one of the commonwealth Justices of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Joseph Wooddell a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged eighty years, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1774 under Captain George Moffett and was stationed at Clover Lick to defend the Frontier settlements against the Indians for the Term of six weeks, being then a resident of & drafted from the Militia of August County Virginia.

That he again was drafted from the Militia as aforesaid & from the County aforesaid in the year (month of September) 1777 under the command of Captain George Moffett, Colonel J. Dickinson Commandant, & taken to Point Pleasant on the Ohio River against the Indians and Stationed there a short time, Period not precisely recollected but not to exceed Three months from the time of entering service until discharged.

That he again was drafted from the Militia aforesaid and from the County as aforesaid in the year 1778, Commanded by Captain Cooper, Colonel Nevill's Regiment, General Woodford's Brigade, and he was marched from his place of Residence as aforesaid through the States of Pennsylvania, New York & New Jersey against the English army and Continued in the Service as a private soldier for Term of one year & discharged in the state of New Jersey at Middle Brook in the month of February 1779.
That he again was drafted from the Militia as aforesaid and from the County aforesaid in the year 1781 under the Command of Captain John Givens, Colonel William Bowyer, General Campbell, and General Lafayette Commanding, & marched from his place of residence to Richmond Va, against the English army who were then laying in that place & from there following the aforesaid English army to Williamsburg being in the Battles at Hot water & James Town and Continued in the service for the term of three months being the First Lieutenant in the Company aforesaid and then was discharged and that he has no knowledge of any Person now living who could testify to his services aforesaid stated.

He hereby relinquishes every Claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension of any state.

Joseph Wooddell

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid and I do more over certify that the said Joseph Wooddell cannot from age and bodily infirmities attend the Court before the subscriber.

William Slaven

We John S. Blain, a clergyman, residing in the County of Pocahontas, and Benjamin Tallman residing in the same County, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Joseph Wooddell who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be eighty years of age, that he is reputed and believed in the neighbourhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

John S. Blain
Benny Tallman

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the Court further certify that it appears to them that John S. Blain who has signed the foregoing certificate is a clergyman resident in the County aforesaid, and that Benjamin Tallman, who also signed the same is a resident in the said County and is a credible person, & that their statement is entitled to credit.

I Henry M. Moffett Clerk of the Court of Pocahontas County do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of Joseph Wooddell for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County office this 4th day of September 1832.

H. M. Moffett

Joseph's pension was not granted immediately & a supporting statement by his younger brother John was added to the same application, being sworn before the Augusta County court.

Augusta County to wit—I John Wooddell of the County of Augusta & State of Virginia after having first been sworn, Sayeth that I recollects of my brother Joseph Wooddell, now of the county of Pocahontas, having performed three
tours of service during the revolutionary war, & the indian war together.

His first tour of duty was against the Indians the particulars of time & place not distinctly recollected.

His second tour of service was for twelve months somewhere to the north; the place not recollected, nor can I recollect the officers that command on that occasion.

His third & last tour of service was below Richmond, the particular place not recollected. I think that the term of service was for three months. He was a Lieutenant in John Dickey's company. The superior officers not recollected and further this deponent sayeth not.

John Wooddell

Augusta County to wit—This day the above signed John Wooddell (sic) came before me a justice of the peace for the said county of Augusta and made oath to the above statement (sic), according to law. Witness my hand this eighth day of June 1833.

James A. McCue

I do farther certify that John Wooddell the subscribing witness to the above statement, lives in my immediate neighbourhood; that I have long been acquainted with him; that he is a credible person & that his statement may be relied on. Witness my hand & seal this 16th day of November 1833.

James A. McCue

Virginia to wit—I Jefferson Kinney, Clerk of the County Court of Augusta, do hereby certify that James A. McCue Esq. whose signatures appear to the within certificates, is a Justice of the peace in and for the county aforesaid—duly commissioned and qualified according to law.

In Testimony whereof, I have hereto affixed my seal of office and subscribed my name this 6th day of December 1833 & in the 58th year of the Commonwealth.

Jefferson Kinney

The amended application was resubmitted to the Commissioner of Pensions, accompanied by the following letter in Joseph's own handwriting:

Travellers Repose Post Office
Pocahontas County, June 28th, 1833

Sir

In compliance with your instructions under date April 2nd returning my Declaration for amendment—the Department require me to give a more detailed account of the service of 78. I state to you, as in the declaration, that I now know of no person living who served with me any tour set forth as it respects the service of 78. I have stated as fully as I now recollect. I was in no engagement during the years service and at the end of the year was dismissed by a General discharge By Genl. Washington Commander of the Army.

I herewith Enclose my Commission showing that I acted as first Lieutenant in the services of 81, under Competent authority, also enclosed you will have
the affidavit of a younger Brother who Recollects of my Different Enlistments & absence from my Residence.

I am now laden with years & Infirmities & Consequently unable to attend the Court of my County to have a new Declaration drawn up & will Humbly Rest my case as the Papers now appear before the department.

I Remain your most Obedient & Humble Servt.

Joseph Wooddell

Unfortunately, the commission mentioned in Joseph's letter has been lost. His National Archives file contains a note to that effect:

S. F. 11883. Joseph Wooddell. Commission of Joseph Waddle as Lt. of a co. of Augusta Co. Va. militia, dated Aug. 15, 1780 and signed by Thomas Jefferson Governor has been removed from this case for safe keeping and may be found in the safe in the room of the Chief of the Old War & Navy Div. June 6, 1905.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was Governor of Virginia (1779-1781) before he became the third President of the United States (1801-1809). On the above note there is an added statement to the effect that Joseph's commission had been "sent to the Seattle Exposition, April 8, 1909". While visiting the National Archives, I inquired regarding the present whereabouts of the commission and was told that it was one of a number of documents sent to the Seattle Exposition for display which had not been returned to the National Archives. Chalkley (1, 216) cites Augusta County Order Book 17, page 265b, August 15, 1780, which records the fact that Joseph Waddle qualified as a lieutenant in John Dickey's company, and other Chalkley abstracts refer to Augusta County records which provide further evidence concerning the service of Joseph and his brother, Thomas Jr.

Joseph's application for a pension was finally approved and Certificate No. 23359 was issued January 17, 1834, at the Virginia Agency and mailed to him at Green Bank in Pocahontas County. On the back of Joseph's letter of December 24, 1833, a clerk in the pension office determined his annual pension of $90 from the following calculation:

Amount:
15 mos. period--- 50
3 mos. Lieut.--- 40

90

Certificate 23359 indicates that he had been paid $270 by March 4, 1834, which was the only payment before his death later that year.

The above account exhausts my present knowledge of Joseph's war service, but undoubtedly a great deal more could be obtained from additional sources. Extensive records of the Augusta County units of the militia could probably be found in the courthouse at Staunton, the National Archives in Washington, and the office of the Adjutant General of Virginia. McAllister, the files of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and other sources have abstracted the statements of pension applicants, so anyone desiring to pursue the subject further could examine the National Archives files of Virginia applicants who served in the same units with Joseph. For example, Joseph's younger brother, Thomas, also served in Captain Dickey's company and his application provides details not mentioned by Joseph. Further information could also be obtained by consulting various sources about the careers of Joseph's commanders, particularly General Lafayette.

At the end of the war, Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) was married to Elizabeth (1751-1820), but I do not know the date or place of the marriage. My
guess is that the ceremony took place at Mossy Creek Presbyterian Church. I do not know when nor where Elizabeth was born nor what her maiden name was. One relative wrote in 1953 that she was Elizabeth Warwick, daughter of William Warwick and Nancy Craig. Another possibility is that she was Elizabeth McKemy, daughter of John McKemy (1750-1789) and sister of Jean McKemy; John mentions a daughter Elizabeth in his will and leaves three pounds to a grandson named John Waddle. But, I do not have conclusive documentary evidence for either a Warwick or McKemy maiden name. Elizabeth apparently received very little formal education, since the Wooddell papers include a deed made jointly by Joseph and Elizabeth in which she made her mark rather than signing her name, and the fact that she could not write may account in part for the lack of family papers which tell of her ancestry.

Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) and Elizabeth (-1820) were the parents of eight children:

601 Thomas Wooddell
   Born August 11, 1783, Augusta County.
   Died July 1, 1860, Pocahontas County.
   Married Mary (Polly) Blake, daughter of Thomas Blake & Jane Warwick, acc. to Clark 298.

602 Nancy Agnes Wooddell
   Born December 13, 1785, Augusta County.
   Died November 29, 1861, Pocahontas County.
   Married June 17, 1805, Bath County Va., to James Cooper (born January 16, 1780, Rockbridge County, Va. - died November 8, 1845, Pocahontas County), son of James Cooper (-1781) & Jean McKemy.

603 John Wooddell
   Born August 26, 1787, Augusta County.
   Died June 10, 1865, Pocahontas County.
   Married March 23, 1820, to Mary (Polly) Slaven (died January 9, 1843), daughter of John Slaven (1760- ) & 2nd wife Elizabeth Warwick.

604 Joseph Wooddell, Jr.
   Born October 3, 1789, Augusta County.
   Died August 20, 1829, Beaver Township, Pike County, Ohio.
   Married Priscilla Slaven, daughter of John Slaven (1760- ) & 2nd wife Elizabeth Warwick.

605 Jane Wooddell
   Born October 31, 1791, Augusta County.
   Died sometime after 1835.
   Married ? Galford.

606 Elizabeth Wooddell
   Born October 5, 1794, Augusta County.
   Died after 1860.
   Unmarried, but left a son, William B. Wooddell.

607 James Wooddell
   Born August 20, 1797, Augusta County.
   Died June 21, 1835, Pocahontas County.
   Married June 22, 1826, to Jane Warwick (born December 6, 1799 - died March 10, 1834), daughter of Andrew Warwick (-1821) & Elizabeth Craig (-1832).

608 Margaret Jane (Peggy) Wooddell
   Born June 27, 1800, probably Augusta County.
Died November 3, 1837
Married 1819 to William Slaven (born July 6, 1798), son of John Slaven (1760- ) & 2nd wife Elizabeth Warwick

I am quite certain that Joseph and Elizabeth first settled in Augusta County and at least seven (if not all) of the above children were born there. Chalkley notes that in 1777 Joseph and his brother James acquired land from their parents, which was probably in the North River District of the county. Joseph and another brother (Thomas) also obtained land together, according to a document in the family papers. This document, which I assume was a copy of a deed, was dated September 18, 1798, and transferred 286 acres of land from Thomas Woodedell of Augusta County to James and Robert Curry of Augusta County, the price being 250 pounds. The land was located "on some of the waters of Thornybranch...part of which was conveyed to the said Thomas Woodedell by Thomas Woodedell deceased and part a grant to said Thomas Woodedell & Joseph Woodedell". (Thorny Branch is a tributary of North River near the small village of Sangerville in the North River District of the county.)

I believe that Joseph & Elizabeth left Augusta County for what is now Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia, some time between 1800 and 1802. In 1800 the Augusta County Clerk, Charles Kinney, exempted Joseph Waddle "from the payment of taxes, etc., on your slave", according to a receipt in the family papers. The year 1802 seems the most probably for the move, since there is a church letter in the family papers which was probably used to transfer membership from the Mossy Creek congregation to the Green Bank church during that year:

This is to certify that Joseph Waddle and his wife Elizabeth have lived in this congregation a number of years, free of scandal, and are in full communion in the Church and that said J. Waddle has been a ruling elder in the Church, by order of Session Mossy Creek April 25th 1802. Benjamin Irvin V D

At the time Joseph settled at Green Bank, the area was part of Bath County, Virginia, & thus some significant records, such as the 1805 marriage bond between James Cooper & Nancy Woodedell, are to be found in the courthouse at Warm Springs, Virginia. Green Bank became part of Pocahontas County when that Virginia county was formed in 1821, then in 1863 became part of the new state of West Virginia.

Joseph settled near the North Fork of Deer Creek (once known as Cardell Creek) & built his log house at approximately 38° 24' 48" north latitude and 79° 49' 58" longitude, near the present home of his great-great-grandson, Mr. Forrest Woodedell (1894- ). Some years ago the old log house was torn down, but Forrest Woodedell was born there and remembers it was heated by a fire place & chimney rather than by stove & was very cold in winter. Mr. Woodedell also remembers that square portholes were cut in the walls to afford protection against Indians, but these had been plugged up by the time he was born. The house had a large porch & a separate back shed for cooking which had a stove & chimney. Still standing, however, is Joseph's smokehouse, constructed from logs & boards cut in his sawmill. Some of the squared logs are 10 inches on the front face & one of the white pine boards in the door is 17 inches in width. Though Joseph's home & mode of life may not seem comfortable to his descendants today, we know from the extensive records he kept, which fortunately have been saved by each succeeding generation, that he was relatively well-to-do by the standards of Pocahontas County in the first third of the century. These records tell us something of his land holdings, his business operations, & his daily life.

As time went on, Joseph increased his acreage. Some of the land he eventually owned was granted first to Thomas Cardell, later to Abraham Ingram, before being granted to Joseph and James McKemy. In the Woodedell papers the earliest land grant is labeled on the outside: "JAMES McKEMY AND JOSEPH WOODDELL, 150 ACRES, BATH COUNTY, RECORDED AND X, BOOK 50, PAGE 100." On the inside part of the document, which is pasted to the inside back cover, he had penciled in the following:

"This is the original grant for both parcels of land...these grants were for land which belonged to my great grandfather William Slaven..."
I James Monroe, ESQUIRE, GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING: KNOW YE, THAT by virtue of a land office treasury warrant, number seventeen hundred and eighty five issued the 15th day of February 1796 THERE IS GRANTED BY THE SAID COMMONWEALTH, UNTO James McKemy and Joseph Wooddell assignee of Abraham Ingram who was entitled to one third in his own right and as assignee of John Blakenship & John Ferdue for the residue. A CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, CONTAINING one hundred and fifty acres, by survey bearing date the eleventh day of May eighteen hundred, lying and being in the county of Bath on the water of Cartmell creek a branch of Greenbrier river and bounded as followeth to wit: beginning at two chestnuts S88W 32 poles to two chestnut oaks on a ridge S11E 80 poles to two chestnut and black oak N15E 16 poles to a Spanish oak and Hickory corner to said Ingram and with his line N23E 118 poles to a sugar tree and red oak on a line of said Ingrams new survey and with the same S60E 10 poles to three Ironwood saplings S74E 50 poles to two chestnuts S90E 150 poles, thence leaving said line S55W 140 poles to the beginning; WITH ITS APPURTENANCES: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAID TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND WITH ITS APPURTENANCES, THE SAID James McKemy and Joseph Wooddell and THEIR HEIRS FOREVER.


James Monroe

Later deeds in the Wooddell papers indicate that Joseph bought James McKemy's share in 1813, acquired considerable additional land, & then gave parcels to each of his several sons before his death in 1834.

In addition to farming his land, Joseph used the waters of Deer Creek to provide power for a saw mill, a feed mill, a blacksmith shop, and a still. The mill races for these operations can be traced today. To keep the records for these enterprises, Joseph made an account book by folding a sheaf of paper, then sewing with heavy thread down the crease in the center. In this crude book are entries from 1813 to 1832, each with the date, the name of the customer, the goods or services provided, and the price in either dollars or pounds. Some typical entries are given because they provide information concerning the lives of the early settlers of Pocahontas County:

The following is an account of Plank Sawed for Daniel Kerr in June 1814, by me Joseph Wooddell:

- 5 quarter plank: 598 feet
- 1 inch plank: 1022
- 3/4 plank for covering: 386
- Plank for wagon body: 251
- inch plank for petition: 559

James Cooper, Dt for Sawing in 1815 & 1816:
To 5/4 planks 765 feet  
To Inch do 1053—  
To 3/4 do 490—  
To 15 Joice  
To Scaffold & Slab Plank  
To Scantling for bedsteads  

James Cooper—June 23, 1825  

To 1/2 Bu. Corn  
To 2 Bu. Corn  
To 1 Sickle  
Cr. by Cash  
To 2 Bu. Rye  

June 30th 1826. David Clayton. Dr to Boarding and horse feed and stableage for his brother Richard $5. Cr. by 2 mares to his horse at $2.50 each--$5.

Many other accounts are listed in Joseph's book and in the Wooddell family papers. In 1827 he drew up specifications for building a church and probably cut the required lumber. He kept cattle and entered records of their pasturing, mentions beef, hides and furs. He made five to ten pound loans of salt to neighbors, of which this entry is typical: "October 6, 1823. Lent to Elizabeth Warrick 11 lbs. Salt with the apron". He made wagon parts, bedstead parts, and frequently mentioned "cherry plank". He billed Charles Martin in March, 1825, for: "To 3 1/2 gallons Whisky, 0-10-6". In April, 1829, he let John Sutton have "one plough Sheer Weight 12 lbs, for which he was to give me the same Weight of new Iron—he paid". He also charged one neighbor for "3 1/2 days work in haytime, 0-10-6". Some other activities for which he presented bills were:

Halling wood to the lime kiln one day 0 9 0  
Halling lime 2 days 1 4 0  
Halling stone 2 days 1 16 0  
13 days making brick 0 19 6  
1 day attendance in mortar 0 3 0  
16 1/2 days attendance making the Brick Kiln 0 2 3  
Halling a load of shingles 0 9 0

Joseph Wooddell apparently made trips of some distance for supplies, as several shopping lists are entered. The following was "for James Cooper," his son-in-law: 3 lb, Coffee, 1 Coffee pot, 1 Pepper Box, 3 Tea Cups & Sassers, 1 wearing hankerschief, 5 yrs yellow Flanmen 1 yrd and half quarter wide, 1/2 lb Pepper. Other items on other lists included: 2 lb chocolet, 3 yrs muslin, 6 lbs Cotten, 1 Sheet Pins, 1 Smell thimble, 1 Bandany hankerschief, 1 Shoehammer, 1 Sett fine Mitting needles, 1 Spelling book, Some writing paper.

These records present hints as to what life was like in the early days of Pocohontas County and also show that Joseph Wooddell was active in the commerce of the region. Judging by the number of wills, deeds, and other documents he prepared for other people, copies of which are in the family papers, he must have been one of...
the few men in the County of his generation who could write well. We know that some of his contemporaries could not write their own names (and made their marks on legal documents) and that many others could write only their own signatures. Joseph prepared two wills for himself, the first in 1822 and the second in 1832, and these documents give further evidence as to his activities and station in life. The 1822 will, in his own handwriting, reads as follows:

In the name of God Amen the Twelfth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and Twenty Two I Joseph Wooddell Senr. of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia being now in health of Body and of perfect mind and Memory thanks be given unto god for the Same but now I am taking a Journey to the State of Ohio and Considering that I am therefore in a particular manner Exposed to death as well as of the natural mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die I do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in the manner and form following that is all my real and personal Estate I do will and bequeath as hereafter directed Via first my funeral and just debts to be paid and all my Lands in this County Containing three hundred and fourteen Acres more or less Lying and being in the County aforesaid adjoining the Lands of Jacob Warrick junr. Jacob Gillespie John Hogshead and others I will and bequeath to Two of my Sons that is John and James Wooddell to them and their heirs forever John Wooddell to have the Lower End adjoining Jacob Warricks Land to Begin on the out Side Line on the South Side of my Land opposite to what we Call the old Still house place and a Line from there across to the Creek that Come down through my meadow to Come past the old Still house place thence down the Creek till near the Lower End of my pasture then across the Lower End of the pasture and upon other Branch of the Creek to the South East Corner of my potato patch that is now then down the way that we Staked it towards the upper Corner of Johns new field about forty rods down from the Said Corner of the potato patch then Square across the Bottom to Jacob Gillespies Line and James Wooddell to have the upper End adjoining Jacob Gillespies and John Hogsheads Lands with the Buildings and improvements that is on it Excepting John Wooddell to have the privilege of doing his own grinding and Sawing with the mills upon Conditions that he gives Some help towards keeping them in order my Lands in the State of Ohio pike County Beaver Township Containing one hundred and Sixty acres it being one quarter Section I will and bequeath to my son Joseph Wooddell and his heirs forever upon Condition that he makes his Brother James Wooddell a rite to his part of the one hundred and Thirty Eight acres which I gave to him and his Brother John Lying in this County also I will and bequeath to my Son Joseph the following property Via the Brown mare and Colts that has been call his and one Cow and Colt the Smiths anvil and Vice ax matock and hoe and a Set of plough Irons one bed and a Light wagon to move with himself to assist in providing the wagon his Brother James to assist him in providing money to move with and as Soon as would be convenient Some money to help him in improving his Land the time not to Exceed four years my Son James to have the following property the Sorral filly that has been Call his and roan Colt that came of Betseys mare and Cattle Sheep and hogs Sufficient for the Support of the family while Together my wagon ploughs Cross-cut Saw broad ax and Tools necessary for farming I wish to be kept on the place my house and kitchen furniture To be kept for the benefit of the family my son James to have my desk & Clock to my Daughter Elisabeth I will and bequeath as follows the Sorral mare that has been Call hers and the young Sorral mare that Came of her mare my walnut Chest Bed and Bedding all the coverings that She provided for her Self and if She Lives to alter her Station of Living I allow her to have five or Six head of Cattle five or Six head of Sheep dresser furniture and Some pots all her own Cloaths and necessary articles Else not mentioned I wish her to have a peaceable Living in my house while in the Station that She is as She has been Very good to me Since her mothers death my Cloath I wish to be divided Equally amongst my four sons my wife that was I allow her Cloaths to be divided Equally between my Three daughters that is here as Jane
has got her part of them my Negro woman Liz to be kept here while James and
Elizabeth remains Single and when they both Change their Station her to be ap-
praised and then will and bequeath her to my four daughters one of them to keep
her and pay the other three Each one a fourth of her Value and Charles to be
kept on the place and treated as he has been my four work horses to be kept on
the place while the family is Together or Except there might be need to Sell
one to pay Debts Joseph to have one of them to help him in moving if he needs
one my Books I allow Each one of my Children to get a part of them I do not wish
any of my property to be sold Except it is Stock to pay debts of my Contracting
and at the marriage of my Son and daughter James and Elizabeth whatever is Left
after my debts are paid and what I Left to my Three children that is yet here
that is Joseph James and Elizabeth Wooddell I allow to be Equally Divided amongst
all my Children to them and their heirs forever, and I do hereby nominate Con-
stitute and appoint Three of my Sons John Joseph and James Wooddell or any Two
of them that Stays in this County Executors of this my Last will and Testament
Revoking Disanulling and Disallowing all other and former will and wills by me
made whether by word or writing allowing approving Ratifying and Confirming this
only as my Last will and Testament in witness whereof I have hereunto Set my
hand and Seal the day and year first above written Signed Sealed published pro-
nounced and Delivered by the Said Joseph Wooddell senr as his Last will and
Testament in the presence of

witnessed, before signed,

Joseph Wooddell senr

Benjamin Tallman
William Warwick

Joseph Wooddell's second & final will was prepared in 1832, eighteen months be-
fore his death, is in the handwriting of James Cooper (1780-1845), his son-in-law,
and is available in the Pocahontas County courthouse (will book 1, page 438):

In the Name of God Amen I Joseph Wooddell Senr. of the County of Pocahon-
tas and State of Virginia being Weak in body But of sound mind and Memory, and
Considering the Mortality of the human Body and knowing that it is appointed for
all men Once to Die do make this my Last Will & Testament Revoking all Others.—
First I recommend my Soul to God who gave it my Body to be Decently Buried in a
Christian like manner, and after my Burial Expenses are paid and all my other
Just Debts are punctually paid I Will & Bequeath the Ballance of my property Both
real & personal in form following:—To my son James Wooddell I will and bequeath
all my land in the County of Pocahontas lying on the Waters of Deer Creek Contain-
ing One hundred & thirty nine Acres to him and his heirs forever together with
all the Improvements thereon—also my Roan horse & Waggan & Gears and all my farm-
ing utensials Consisting of ploughs, Gears, Harrow, & hoes, also my Cross Cut Saw
& one large Kettle—also my Clock & Desk—& my Share of the Smith Tools—To my
Daughter Betsy Wooddell or her heirs I will & bequeath my young Roan mare, three
cows, Six head of Sheep, two beds, Bedsteads & Bed Cloaths, also my Walnut Chest
and One trunk—One ten Gallon Kettle, one three gallon pot, also her Choice of
my Ovens, & all My Dresser furniture. And Further I reserve the sole use of my
Back Shed for my Daughter Betsy While she may live single and also my son James
is to furnish feed for two head of horses, three cows & six head of Sheep for said
Betsy While she may live single—My Negro Woman Lia I allow to be appraised &
one of my four Daughters to take her at the appraisement and pay each one of my
Other three Daughters One fourth of her appraisement as for my negro man Charles
I allow my son James to maintain him his lifetime—my Wearing Apparel I
allow to be
Equally Divided among my four Sons or their heirs—My Books I allow to be Equally Divided amongst my Eight Children or their heirs.——I allow my son James to have my Stock of Hogs, and in Consideration of the former bequeath my son James is to furnish my daughter Betsy & her son William a reasonable Supply of flour or Meal & Meat during the time She may Live single or until William be put to a trade.—My son James & my Daughter Betsy to have my loom & all the tacklings.——To my Grand Daughter Betsy McKinley Cooper I Will & Bequeath One good young Cow.—The Ballance of my property that I may Die in possession of I allow to be sold at public sale the proceeds of which together with what money may be on hand I allow to be Equally Divided amongst my Eight Children or their Heirs.——And in Case the money is drawn for my services during the Revolution war I allow the heirs of my son Joseph & the heirs of my Daughter Jane to have thirty Dollars that is to say the Heirs of Joseph to have fifteen Dollars & the Heirs of Jane to have fifteen Dollars to be Equally Divided Between them.——Lastly I Constitute and appoint my son James & James Cooper Executors of this my Last Will & Testament. In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this third day of December One thousand Eight Hundred & Thirty two & 57 year of the Commonwealth.

Joseph Wooddell Senr. seal

Witnesses present: Jacob Gum, Samuel Given, Patrick Bruffey, Jacob Warwick.

Several of the objects mentioned in Joseph's two wills are now in the possession of Clyde Wardell Wooddell (1918- ), great-great-great-grandson of Joseph & son of Forrest. On my visit to Green Bank, I was shown Joseph's desk, clock, plane, auger, & other tools & household items. One of the most interesting items was the lock & key, still in good working order, from the front door of Joseph's log house. Most of these items were probably fashioned by Joseph himself & manifest a high caliber of workmanship. I hope that these items & Joseph's papers will remain in the family for a long time or be given to a museum with a good historical collection concerning West Virginia.

Charles & Liz, the two slaves mentioned in the will, were buried on the Wooddell farm. Mr. Forrest Wooddell, Mr. Hamed, & I are fairly certain we found their graves marked by field stones on a hill top. Charles lived to an advanced age—perhaps over 100—and in his last years spent most of his time fishing in a spot in Deer Creek which is still called the "Charley Hole". The two slaves were offered their freedom several times, but refused it. After the death of Joseph, the other heirs turned their interests in the slaves over to James Wooddell, who remained on the home place, as is shown in the following document in the family papers:

Know all men by these presents that I James Cooper & Nancy his wife Jane Galford Betsey Wooddell & William Slaven & Peggy his wife for and in Consideration of the Sum of one Dollar to them in hand paid by James Wooddell at & Before the sealing and delivery of these presents (the Receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge) have Bargained and sold & By these presents do grant Bargain & sell to the said James Wooddell a Certain female Negro Slave named Liss aged Forty years to have & to hold the Said Negro Slave to the only proper use of the said James Wooddell his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns forever, & the said James Cooper & Nancy his wife Jane Galford Betsey Wooddell & William Slaven & Peggy his wife for themselves & their heirs Executors & Administrators the said Negro Slave to the said James Wooddell against the Claim or Claims of all and Every person whatsoever will warrant and for Ever defend in witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & affixed our seals this day of 1835.

James Cooper
Nancy Cooper
According to the James & Jane Wooddell family Bible, Elizabeth died on April 6, 1820, & her husband Joseph died on July 26, 1834. The date of Joseph's death is confirmed by a letter giving the same date in his file at the National Archives. The place of Joseph & Elizabeth's burial is not known. Forrest Wooddell was able to locate the graves of the slaves because his father, many years ago, had pointed out the spot, but he does not remember ever being shown where his great-great-grandparents were buried.

Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) file at the National Archives in Washington, D. C., is S. F. 11683. His brother, Thomas Waddell (1759-1839), spelled his name differently; his file is 11697.

Books Cited:


Price, William T. HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF POCOHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Marlinton, West Virginia: Price Brothers, 1901.