

# **Robert Reed Cooley (1847-1917)** **Stella Alfresine Owen (1850-1920)**

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Written by **Daniel Berton Cooley** 11<sup>th</sup> generation New England Cooleys

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## Robert Reed Cooley (1847-1917) and Stella Alfresine Owen (1850-1920)

The Cooley antecedents of the 11th generation author, Daniel Berton Cooley b. 1939 are: Clifford Coyne[10], Robert Berton[9], Robert Reed[8], Andrew[7], Noah[6], Benjamin[5], Benjamin[4], Benjamin[3], Daniel[12], and Ensign Benjamin[1]. This biography is about Robert Reed Cooley (8th generation after first generation immigrant Ensign Benjamin Cooley) and his wife, Stella Alfresine Owen.

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**Robert Reed Cooley** b.14 May 1847 in Garnavillo Twp, Clayton County, Iowa;<sup>1</sup> m. 10 Dec 1874 in Mendon Twp, Mendon Twp, Clayton County, Iowa,<sup>2</sup> to **Stella Alfresine Owen** b. 21 May 1850 in Alden Twp, McHenry County, Illinois;<sup>3</sup> he d. 28 Dec 1917 in Flagler, Kit Carson County, Colorado,<sup>4</sup> bur. Flagler Cem, Kit Carson County, Colorado;<sup>5</sup> she d. 10 Jun 1920 in Flagler, Kit Carson County, Colorado,<sup>6</sup> bur. in Flagler Cem, Kit Carson County, Colorado.<sup>7</sup>



### Children

i(T). **Robert Berton Cooley** b. 20 Oct 1875 in Mendon Twp, Clayton Co, Iowa;<sup>8</sup> m. 3 Jan 1903 to Carrie Louella Miller,<sup>9</sup> she was b. 27 May 1883<sup>10</sup> near Beaman, Grundy Co, Iowa;<sup>11</sup> she d. 10 Aug 1973 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,<sup>12</sup> bur. in Otis Cem, Washington Co, Colorado;<sup>13</sup> he d. 12 Dec 1962 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,<sup>14</sup> bur. Otis Cem, Washington Co, Colorado.<sup>15</sup>

i(T). **Herbert Merton Cooley** b. 20 Oct 1875 in Mendon Twp, Clayton Co, Iowa;<sup>16</sup> d. 4 Nov 1914 nr Yankton,<sup>17</sup> Yankton Co, South Dakota; bur. Missouri River (drowned);<sup>18</sup> m(1). 26 Apr 1905 at Holliday Farm, Knox Co, Nebraska,<sup>19</sup> **Jane Elizabeth Holliday**<sup>20</sup> b. 20 Mar 1884 in Castle Sowerby, Cumberland, England,<sup>21</sup> d. 1 Jan 1908 in Crofton, Knox Co,<sup>22</sup> Nebraska bur. Plainview Cem, Pierce Co, Nebraska;<sup>23</sup> m(2) 29 Jun 1910 in Crofton, Knox Co, Nebraska, **Edith Jones**<sup>24</sup> b. 15 Aug 1879 in Iowa;<sup>25</sup> d. abt 1914 in Knox County Nebraska,<sup>26</sup> bur. Jones Family burial ground, 1 mi S, ½ mi W of Crofton, Knox Co, Nebraska.<sup>27</sup>

ii. **Alton Verne Cooley** b. 8 May 1880 in Mendon Twp, Clayton Co, Iowa;<sup>28</sup> never married; d. 5 Aug 1881 (aged 1 year, 2 months, 29 days) in probably Mendon Twp;<sup>29</sup> bur. Old Garnavillo Cem, Clayton Co, Iowa.<sup>30</sup>

iii. **Glenn Syren Cooley** b. 14 Jul 1894 in Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska;<sup>31</sup> m(1) abt 1920-1921 possibly in Colorado,<sup>32</sup> **Elizabeth** \_\_\_, b. abt 1900 in Iowa,<sup>33</sup> d. unknown, bur. unknown; m(2) 24 Apr 1938 in Yuma, Yuma Co, Arizona,<sup>34</sup> **Ivy Wood Stebbing-Howe** b. 26 Jul 1889 in South Dakota,<sup>35</sup> d. 23 Nov 1969 in San Diego, San Diego Co, California;<sup>36</sup> bur. unknown; he d. 3 Jul 1962 in San Diego, San Diego Co, California;<sup>37</sup> bur. unknown.

# Robert Reed Cooley

Robert was the ninth child of nine living children in 1850 for Iowa. For context, James K Polk was president of the United States of America, the Mexican-American War (25 Apr 1846 to 2 Feb 1848) had just concluded, and the Irish Potato Famine was well underway. The Iowa State Census of 1856 shows Robert aged 9 to be the 7<sup>th</sup> child with his three eldest brothers, Andrew S. Jr, Stephen Warren, and Thomas W. having established farms of their own in Garnavillo Township.

## Census Data

To paint a picture of Robert's early life, census data for the Andrew S Cooley Sr. family have been analyzed. Additional emphasis has been placed on Peter S. Cooley, Robert's elder brother (b. 1843) whom he was to have personally cared for due to wounds received in the Civil War.<sup>38</sup>

### 1850 census

The United State Census of 1850 in Iowa, Clayton County, Garnavillo Township lists Andrew S Cooley Sr as head of household aged 46, Salome Warren Cooley, his wife, aged 41 and Robert R. listed as the eighth child aged five (should have been aged 3).<sup>39</sup>

### 1854 and 1856 Iowa state censuses

Censuses were conducted by the State of Iowa for the years 1854 and 1856. The 1854 census for Clayton County, Garnavillo Twp listed only head of household and number of family members which was six male children and five females for a total of eleven. Isabel G, the youngest and last child of the family, was born in about 1851.

The 1856 Iowa state census enumerated all family members by name. In Garnavillo Twp, Robert R Cooley was the 7th child aged 9 and Peter S was the 5th child aged 12. The total number of family members was 12. The eldest child, Andrew S. Jr, aged 24, had participated in the California Gold Rush and was found in Plumas County California in 1856 and Stephen Warren, aged 23, had a farm of his own close to his father's farm.

### 1860 census

In 1860, the US Census for Garnavillo, Clayton County, Iowa enumerated nine Cooley family members plus a 10th, Emily E. who was married to William Gladden. The Gladden family of three was living with the Andrew S Cooley household. Robert Reed was aged 12 and Peter S. was aged 16.

Peter S. Cooley, Andrew's and Salome's 11th child (b. about Oct 1843), played an important part in Garnavillo's Civil War effort. He was mustered into Company E, 27th Iowa Infantry, on August 22nd 1862 aged 19, as a member of the Union Army. He was wounded in action but was mustered out with other regulars of the 27th on 8 Aug 1865 in Clinton, Iowa. It is assumed he was seriously wounded at this time.

### 1870 census

The 1870 US Census was enumerated on the 11th of July in Garnavillo Twp, Clayton County Iowa. The Andrew S Cooley-Salome Warren family was still in Garnavillo, Clayton County, Iowa.<sup>40</sup> In 1870 both Peter (aged 25) and Robert (aged 23) were living with their parents, Andrew and Salome Cooley. Robert was listed: "works on farm".

Things were fast-changing for the Andrew S Cooley family in the first four years of the 1870s decade. An exodus from Garnavillo to Mendon township (with the bustling port McGregor its main town) was underway.<sup>41</sup>

From the Stephen Warren Cooley's obituary of his father, "There [in 1870 in Garnavillo] they made their home until 1872, when the old homestead was sold and another farm purchased in Mendon township near McGregor...". It is assumed Robert was caring for his elder brother, Peter, while still in their parents' home; first in Garnavillo then Mendon Township.

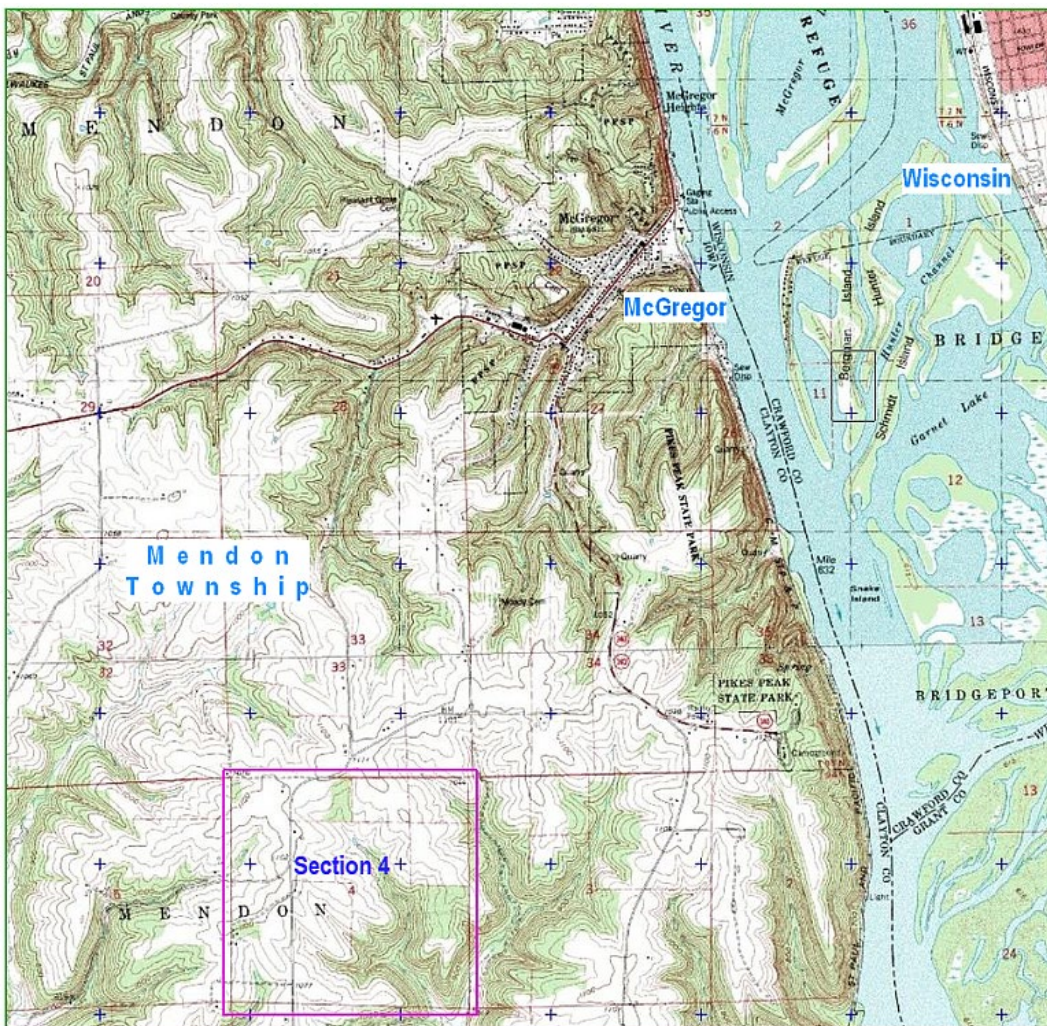
### 1880 census

The US census of 1880 in Iowa, Clayton County, Mendon Twp shows that in Dwelling 167 only two remaining in the Andrew S Cooley Sr. household: Himself (aged 75) and Salome (aged 70). Robert, now head of household, in Dwelling 168, resided on a farm close to his parents with five family members, Robert (ae 33), Stella Owen (ae 30), Berton and Merton (twins ae 4) and Alton Vern aged one month.

From Warren Cooley's obituary: "[The Mendon Twp farm] was {Andrew and Salome's} home until 1883, since which time they have resided with their daughter, Mrs. Fred Cook".

### 1885 Iowa State Census

A census was conducted by the State of Iowa in the year 1885. The Robert Cooley family lived in Township 94, Range 2, Section 4 of Mendon Township, Clayton County. There were five members of the household: Robert, farmer, aged 37; Estella (Stella Alfresine Owen), "keeping house", aged 34, twins Berton and Martin (Merton) aged 9, and a Mary Durmond, seamstress, aged 24.<sup>42</sup> In 1885 Robert's father and mother, Andrew and Salome, were back in Garnavillo Township living in the Fred Cook-Emily Cooley-Cook household.



Robert R Cooley's farm was in Section 4 of Mendon Township Clayton County, Iowa

## United States Census of 1890

In 1921 the 1890 census was destroyed by fire and water. The fire broke out on the 10th of January 1921 in the Department of Commerce building in Washington DC. "Despite the heavy black smoke, crews entered the basement and began pouring thousands of gallons of water into the blazing rooms. One floor above, colleagues cut holes in the floor to flood the basement with even more water".<sup>43</sup>

The fire was doused but the damage had been done by water. The soaked records were taken to dry places where they sat, waterlogged and abandoned for 11 years with no attempt to salvage any of them.<sup>44</sup> Then, in 1932 the Librarian of Congress approved the destruction of all those moldy records. That was the end of the 1890 census.

## 1880 Non-population Census

The decennial population censuses of the United States Census Bureau were designed to count all persons living within the boundaries of a given country. From 1790 to 1840 it was just a count of family members by age brackets. Then the 1850 and subsequent census expanded to ascertain the demographic status of all persons in the country including members of the military overseas.

Not only did the population census expand in scope but the Census Bureau devised "non-population" censuses to identify and quantify resources and needs. The non-population schedules collected data on industrial, agricultural, and social development of the nation.

Of interest is the 1880 agricultural non-population census for the State of Iowa in which Robert R. Cooley appears.<sup>45</sup>

## 1880 United States Non-population Census, Agriculture

Schedule 2.--Productions of Agriculture in Iowa, in the County of Clayton, State of Iowa Enumerated by me the 17 day of June, 1880, A. J. Hafer, Enumerator

Page No. 9, Supervisor's Dist No. 2, Enumeration Dist No. 141

----- 1 -----

Of the person who conducts this farm

The name: Cooley, Robert R.

Tenure

Owner: Yes

Acres of Land

Improved

Tilled, including fallow and grass in rotation (whether pasture or meadow): 70

Permanent meadows, permanent pastures, orchards, vineyards: 45

Unimproved

Woodland and forest: 50

Other unimproved including "old fields" not growing wood: None

Farm Value

Of farm, including land, fences, and buildings: \$3000

Of farming implements and machinery: \$40

Of livestock: \$237

Fences - None  
Cost of fertilizers - None  
Labor - None

Estimated value of all farm productions  
(Sold, consumed, or on hand for 1879: \$550)

Grass Lands 1879  
Acreage  
Mown: 12  
Not mown: 33  
Products harvested 1879  
Hay: 18 tons  
Clover seed: None  
Grass seed: None

Horses of all ages on hand June 1, 1880: 5

Mules and asses all ages on hand June 1 1880: None

----- 2 -----

Neat cattle and their products  
On hand June 1 1880  
Working oxen: None  
Milch cows: 1  
Others: 3  
Movement 1879  
Calves dropped: 1  
Cattle of all ages  
Purchased: None  
Sold living: 2  
Slaughtered: None  
Died, strayed, and stolen and not recovered: None  
Milk sold: None  
Butter made on the farm in 1879: 250 lbs  
Cheese made: None

Sheep - None

Swine  
On hand June 1, 1880: 9

Poultry on hand June 1, 1880  
Barnyard: 50  
Other: None

Eggs produced in 1879: 200

----- 3 -----

Cereals 1879

Barley - None

Buckwheat - None

Indian corn

Acres: 17

Bushels: 500

Oats 1879

Acres: 3

Bushels: 75

Rye 1879

Acres: 3

Bushels: 25

Wheat 1879

Acres: 6

Bushels: 60

Pulse 1879

Canada Peas dry: None

Beans dry: 4 bushels

Fiber, flax and hemp 1879 - None

Sugar, sorghum and maple 1879 - None

Broom corn 1879 - None

----- 4 -----

Hops - None

Potatoes (Irish) 1879

Acres: 1

Bushels: 125

Potatoes (Sweet) 1879 - None

Tobacco - None

Orchards 1879

Apple

Acres: 9

Bearing Trees: 100

Bushels: 100

Pear - None

Total Value of orchard products of all kinds sold of consumer: \$40

Nurseries 1879 - None

Vineyards 1879

Acres: One fourth

Grapes sold: 200 lbs

Wine made: 20 gal

Market Gardens 1879 - None

Bees 1879 - None

Forest Products 1879

Amount of wood cut

Cords: 40

Value of all forest products 1879: \$80

### **Cooleys Subject to Military Duty**

In the database *Iowa, U.S., Records of Persons Subject to Military Duty, 1862-1910*<sup>46</sup> four Cooley brothers appear beginning in 1867 when Robert was 20 years old:

1867: Lewis T. (ae 25), Peter S. (ae 23), Hersey Churchill (ae 22), and Robert R. (ae 20).

1870: Lewis T. (ae 28), Peter S. (ae 26), Hersey Churchill (ae 25), and Robert R. (ae 23).

1871: Lewis T. (ae 29), Peter S. (ae 27), Hersey Churchill (ae 25), and Robert R. (ae 24).

1872: Lewis T. not listed, Peter S. (ae 28), Hersey Churchill (ae 27), and Robert R. (ae 25)

Lewis T. Cooley was married to Etta Allie Owen<sup>47</sup> in 1875 in Clayton County Iowa. His first born was Elsie Izetta Cooley b. 15 Dec 1876 in Clayton County Iowa. By this time, he had established his own farm in Mendon Township, Clayton County.

1876: Lewis T. (ae 33) Hersey Churchill (ae 31), and Robert R. (ae 29)

1878: Lewis T. (ae 35) Hersey Churchill (ae 33), and Robert R. (ae 31)

1880: Hersey Churchill (ae 35), and Robert R. (ae 34)

Although the entry for 1880 had the two sons together on consecutive lines, Robert R. had already established his own farm a business, and a family of consisting of the parents and three of their four children (Robert B. and Merton B., twins and Alton Verne).<sup>48</sup>

In 1880, Hersey Cooley and his wife Christina were living in the household of Lewis T. Cooley.<sup>dd</sup>

### **Peter S. Cooley**

Robert R. Cooley died in in 1917. In his obituary in the *Flagler News (Colorado)*<sup>49</sup> there was a telling statement concerning the relationship between Robert and his elder brother, Peter S. Cooley, who was wounded in a Civil War battle in Tennessee:

Robert Cooley was a true man; a man who gave almost his entire life to the service of others. For three years he took care of a helpless brother<sup>50</sup> who was wounded in the Civil War. This ordeal practically undermined his health, but he never complained.



The 1870 US Census for Garnavillo Twp shows both Peter (aged 25) and Robert (aged 23) living with their parents, Andrew and Salome Cooley. Peter S. was listed as a "school teacher" and Robert R. "works on farm". Other household members in the 1870 census were Hersey C. (ae 24), Ella J. (ae 20), and granddaughter Anna Gladden (ae 10) who was attending school.

According to Robert R. Cooley's "Account Book" (examined in detail later) he had established his own business in Garnavillo Township by at least August of 1869.<sup>a</sup> A year later Robert hired Peter to do some thrashing; Peter was paid \$30 in August and \$32 in September of 1870.

In 1872 the "old homestead"<sup>51</sup> was sold<sup>52</sup> and the family moved to Mendon Township, Clayton County, Iowa.

Assuming the family members enumerated in the 1870 census were about the same in 1872, there was Andrew S. Cooley, Salome Warren, Peter S., Hersey C., and Robert R.<sup>53</sup>

While not incapacitated, Peter certainly was in big trouble with his Civil War wounds. Peter died 15 Aug 1873 aged 30 in Mendon Township. Death details are not known; he was buried in the Cooley plot in Old Garnavillo Cemetery.<sup>54</sup>

## R.R. Cooley Account Book

The author has possession of an "Account Book" of Robert R Cooley. The following is a typed sticker on its front cover:

**ACCOUNT BOOK**  
Owned by R. R. Cooley,  
Father of R. B. Cooley,  
McGregor, Ia., 1869—1884

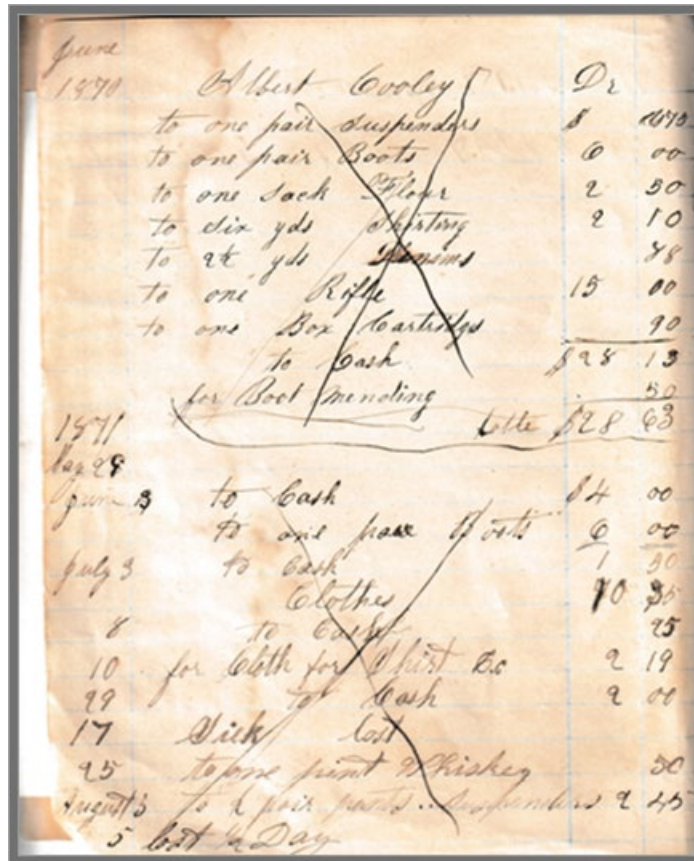


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<sup>a</sup> He could have been in business earlier; some of the first few pages are neatly cut out

This book is only cursorily in chronological order. That is, there are no 1870-75 entries toward the end of the book and no 1883-1885 entries in the beginning several pages. Other than that, the years are intermixed throughout.

Below is a typical page from the RRC Account Book. The years are mixed, 1873 and 1875. The upper half is a credit for wood, the lower, debit for personal items.



Another disturbing thing is that four or five of the beginning pages were neatly cut out. The sticker says it started in 1869 but one wonders what was on those first few pages.

The book wasn't kept with standard accounting practices in mind. Robert generally had one column of dollar figures with Dr and Cr sometimes placed haphazardly above, thus, in many cases it was hard to determine income from outgo.. Sometimes it was obvious such as "plugs of tobacco 15¢" (outgo) or Vanvluvan (probably the Flemish name Van Lueven); Dry Oak wood; \$4.5 0" (income).

Here are selected entries arranged by year.

## 1869

The earliest entry in the book is dated Aug 1 1869:

Aug 1 1869 Horse taken (no dollar figure on this line)

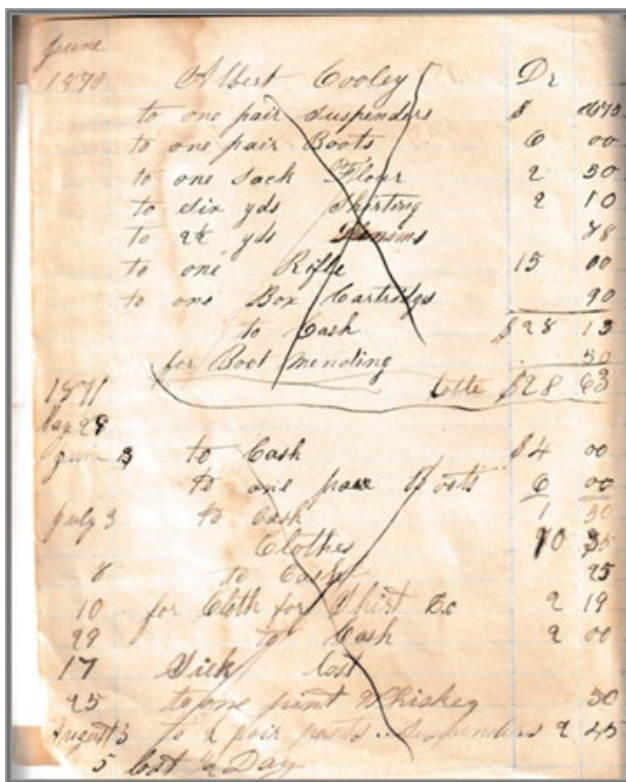
There are two more entries for 1869:

|             |   |          |
|-------------|---|----------|
| Sep 2 1869  | - 14 weeks for one horse at 50 cts per week | \$7.00   |
| Dec 23 1869 | - Sold 27.28 lbs pork @ \$10.40 per lb      | \$283.71 |

After the last entry in 1869 there are no entries for the next five months of 1870.

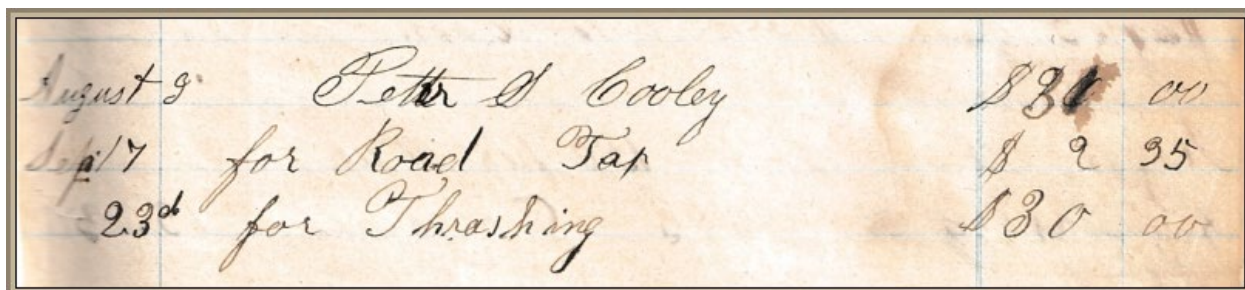
1870

In June 1870 Albert Cooley<sup>a</sup> (apparently a clothier) has several entries. An example: "to one pair boots \$6.00".



In the Fall of 1870 an important entry involves Peter S. Cooley, Robert's elder brother who was wounded in the Civil War in a battle in Tennessee.

- Aug 9 - Peter S Cooley \$30.00
- Sept 7 - for Road Tap \$2.35
- Sept 23 - for Thrashing \$30.00



These entries show that Peter was not an invalid (someone who is incapacitated by a chronic illness or injury) as claimed on a pension application filed by his mother, Salome Cooley, in 1876.<sup>55</sup> Robert's obituary mentioned that he "cared for a helpless brother."<sup>56</sup> This is not to downplay the seriousness of Peter's wounds (he died in 1873 aged 30) but to point out he was not incapacitated. He could operate a thrashing machine and teach school.

<sup>a</sup> Albert Cooley has not been identified as a relative

## 1871

March 5th - Dr. to cash \$9.50  
April 9th - Miss Mary Holtzman/Commenced Work at \$1.50 per week  
Albert Cooley:  
June 13 - to cash \$4.00  
July 10 - for cloth shirt \$2.19  
July 25 - to one pint whiskey \$0.50

## 1872-1873

Jan 1872 - Sold 27 hogs 57.51 \$4.50 per hd \$257.50  
March 18 1872 - Albert Cooley began Work \$13.00 per month  
Oct 30 1872 - Miss Thompson Began Work Wednesday \$2.00 per Week  
March 18 1872 - Mary Hazan Began Work \$150 per mon

The next page begins with Nov-Dec 1872 then all of 1873 same ink same style. For 1873 from January through December all entries are wood sold by the cord (4'x4'x8' = 128 cu ft). These entries and throughout the entire book in fact, there is no mention of Mendon Township<sup>57</sup> to which at least four family members moved in 1872: father Andrew, mother Salome Warren, and brothers Peter S. and Robert Reed.<sup>58</sup> I'm assuming that Robert and Peter were inseparable until Peter's death in Mendon Twp on 15 Aug 1873.<sup>59</sup>

## 1874

Jan 24th Miss **Stella Owen** began work  
March 9 - Amount of work 17 weeks \$34.00  
Sept 15 - Just work bal due \$16.55

Now we know how Robert met his future wife, Stella Owen. He hired her for work. (Robert and Stella were married on 10 Dec 1874.)

Other entries for 1874:

Feb 18 1874 - he hired Sarah Denron (apparently a seamstress) at \$1 per day.  
Mar 21 1874 - one dress/thread/to cash/belt and shoe strings.  
Mar 7 1874 - A Owen wood \$1.50 (First indication of his future father in law, Ambrose Owen)

Robert is still dealing in wood in 1874 with entries

Sept thru Dec 20 - Black Oak Wood hold  
Oct - White Oak Maple hold also Maple hold

## 1875

Jan 14th and 18th - Black Oak Wood hold  
Jan 30 - Mr Bidde logs  
Apr - Clayton County, cord \$2.00  
Apr 19 - George Schaffer, plugs of tobacco 15¢  
May 26 - **Ambrose Owen** two days' work, \$1.05

It looks like Robert was paying his father-in-law, Ambrose Owen, one fourth as much per day as Ambrose's daughter Stella (\$2 per day).

## 1876 Centennial Year

Only the following entries with no dollar amounts:

1876 Jan 27 - S Owen<sup>a</sup> work

1876 Jan through Apr - S. Owen turkey shoot, cutting wood and cords, boots, plowing

1876 May 2-29 - chain, shoe, chair, tea, tobacco

## 1877

There are very few entries this year, all involving the name Owen. For example

Jan 6 - S.A. Owen<sup>b</sup> buckwheat, sugar, horse shoeing, tea

From here on the entries are a jumble of years from 1877 thru 1884

## 1878

Jan thru Dec - Dawson cords

Jan 8 - Actt with Ambrose Owen

Ball on wood, 2 gall oil, cutting wood,

Buy onions, 1 bus potatoes, fixing reaper

Oct 22 - 1/2 day plowing \$1.00 (Last entry in the book for Ambrose Owen)

## 1879

Jan 1-Feb 24 - debts paid to many different names, O'Brian, Daniels, Lindsey, et al

January 2d - Bout (bought) of Kinzel, one shot gun \$16.00

Feb 25 - SA Owen gallon of whisky \$2.00

September 9 - Money taken, stove wood \$4.00, Cord wood \$9.00

Dec 24 - Acct with S. A. Owen chopping, horse, oats,  
tobacco, draining pools, medicine at Kennedys

## 1880

Sept 24 and Oct 18th - Maroa Owen<sup>c</sup> day's work picking apples

May - G. or S. Owen (lighter ink) plowing, work

Oct 22 - L. T. Cooley<sup>d</sup> two baskets of corn

June - On Actt with Robert Lindsey thru Sept 8<sup>th</sup>  
flour, potatoes, salt, sugar, apples

Oct - L. T. Cooley work thrashing \$1.50

## 1881

Jan - Bought of Bowen one harrow<sup>e</sup> \$625

Feb 9, 24th, Oct 8th - potatoes, strawberries

Apr - apple trees sold to George Hill

May 10 - A. W. Cooley<sup>f</sup> settled work (no money entered)

## 1882

Nov 22 - Subscribed to North Iowa Times @ \$1.50/yr

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<sup>a</sup> S. Owen could be Syren Ambrose Owen (abt 1845-1913)

<sup>b</sup> Syren Ambrose Owen

<sup>c</sup> Maroa Owen could be Miranda Diggins (1827-1902ff), wife of Ambrose Owen, mother of Stella

<sup>d</sup> Not identified as a relative

<sup>e</sup> n. A farm implement consisting of a heavy frame with sharp teeth or upright disks, used to break up and even off plowed ground

<sup>f</sup> Not identified as a relative

## 1883

Jan 20 to March 8th - Wm Troutfetter groceries  
Lewie Lee began boarding @ \$2.50 per week  
Feb 21 thru Mar 5th - in acct with Gailard by cash wood  
Mar 1 - Annettie Morisy one note given of \$60 ten percent  
Nov 28 - David Skinner one note given of \$80 at 8 percent  
Nov 22 - Hoffer & Sons cord wood  
Dec 29 - Pat M Cabe wood  
Dec 10 - Bernice Thorp corn 1884 Feb 1 thru Apr 11 one day work \$1.50

## 1884

Mar 3 - by sawing and drawing straw \$2.00  
Dec 15 - Troutfetter groceries  
Mar 7 - one sack rye  
Mar 21 - one day thrashing  
Jan 13 - Pat McCabe wood  
Feb 25 - In acct with Peter Peterson load straw  
Jun - Ernest Owen<sup>a</sup> work paid (no money entered)  
Apr through Aug Bernice Thorp, drawing oats, plowing, draying,  
planting corn, hazing, harvesting

## 1885

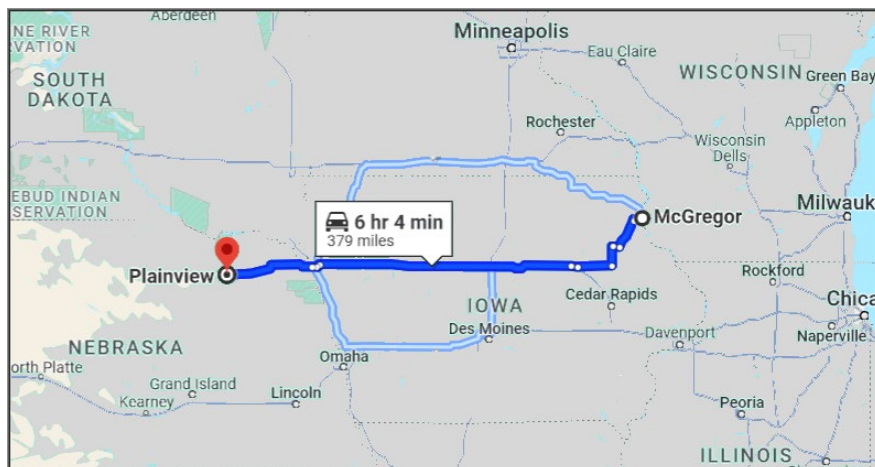
Jan 10th & Jan 29th S Owen wood  
Mar 30 - John Andrick cord soft wood

1885 is the last year of entries in *Account Book*.

## Westward Ho

The desire to migrate westward aroused Robert Cooley just as it had his father, Andrew S Cooley who moved from Vermont to Western New York to Michigan then to Iowa. Toward the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the family of four, consisting of Robert, Stella, Berton, Merton, emigrated from Mendon Township, Clayton County, Iowa to Pierce County Nebraska. According to Robert's obituary in the *Flagler News* (Colo.) "In the spring of 1886 Robert Reed and his family...moved to Plainview, Nebr, where he resided until the spring of 1910".<sup>60</sup>

The distance west from Mendon Twp is about 379 miles as depicted in the modern map below (by Google Maps) that uses U.S. Hwy 20 as the most direct route (old Yellowstone Trail).



<sup>a</sup> Ernest M Owen (1869-1937) was Stella's younger brother

Their destination, Pierce County, is located in northeastern Nebraska. Pierce was carved out of Madison County in 1867, the year Nebraska became a state. Madison in turn was carved out of Platte County in 1856 and Platte was an original county of Nebraska Territory erected in 1854.

## **Plainview Nebraska**

Plainview is a farming community whose ancestry was predominantly Danish and German. Prospects of free land brought settlers in the early 1870s by way of Wisconsin and Illinois to the Norfolk area.

At that time, railroad companies were pushing to get towns located and settled. In 1871 representatives of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad came to land initially owned by William B. Chilvers to lay out streets and blocks that eventually became Plainview. A post office called Roseville was established in April 1872. In 1874, the name of the post office was changed to Plainview.

The FE&MV rail line from Norfolk to Plainview was completed in 1880 at which time the town was platted. Incorporation papers were filed in April 1886. In 1890 the Pacific Short Line (Sioux City, O'Neil & Western Railway) from Sioux City Iowa to O'Neill, Holt County, Nebraska via Plainview was built but it failed just three years later.

## **Farming in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

During the nineteenth century, the development of the steel plow and the reaper ushered in the machine age of agriculture. The general use of horse-drawn machinery resulted in the displacement of manpower by horse and mule power, and in the utilization of vast areas of farm lands in the Midwest for the growing of feed and food crops. Yet, farm life remained the same as decades before

In 1900 the farmer performed chores by hand, plowed with a walking plow, forked hay, milked by hand, and went to town once a week on horseback or by wagon to obtain the few necessities not produced on the farm. The power needed for farm operations was supplied by work animals and humans. Food for the farmer and members of his family, and feed for the work animals came from the farm. Fuel was obtained from the farm woodlot. Fertilizer was seldom used. The flickering kerosene lamp furnished the light. The hand pump and the windmill pumped water.

Many production processes performed on farms in 1900 are now concentrated in nonfarm factories. Electricity has displaced the candle and kerosene lamp in the farm home. The refrigerator, the deep freeze, and modern methods of food distribution have helped to eliminate the home canning, the springhouse, and the potato hill as methods of farm food preservation. The telephone, radio, television, automobile, and good roads have nearly eliminated the isolation that characterized farm living in 1900.<sup>61</sup>

## **Farming advancements in Nebraska 1900-1909**

The farming outlook in Nebraska during the period of 1900-1910 shared many of the broader trends observed in the United States as a whole. It was characterized by growth, technological advancements, and the challenges associated with weather variability. The state's agricultural sector continued to play a crucial role in the overall economy, contributing to the prosperity of the region.

**Expansion of Agriculture:** Nebraska witnessed a continued expansion of agricultural activities. The state's fertile soil and favorable climate were conducive to various crops, including corn, wheat, and oats.

**Introduction of New Technologies:** Similar to the national trend, Nebraska farmers adopted new technologies. The early 20th century saw the increased use of tractors, gasoline engines, and other mechanized equipment. These innovations contributed to increased efficiency and productivity on farms.

**Railroad Expansion:** The expansion of railroads in Nebraska improved transportation and connectivity. Farmers could more easily transport their products to markets outside the state, contributing to economic growth in the agricultural sector.

**Rural Population:** The population in rural areas of Nebraska remained about the same in the first decade, just decreasing 2.7%. However, rural-to-urban migration, reflecting broader demographic shifts were increasing at a rapid pace across the United States. Using the reference point of 76.3% rural population in Nebraska the figure had dropped 23.1% to 53.1% by 1950 then decreasing rapidly to just 30.2% by year 2000.

| Nebraska <sup>62</sup> |                  |           |       |         |       |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|
|                        | Total population | Urban     |       | Rural   |       |
| 1900                   | 1,066,300        | 252,702   | 23.7% | 813,598 | 76.3% |
| 1910                   | 1,192,214        | 310,852   | 26.1% | 881,362 | 73.9% |
| ...                    |                  |           |       |         |       |
| 2000                   | 1,711,263        | 1,193,725 | 69.8% | 517,538 | 30.2% |

Currently the crops grown in Pierce County are corn (as with all of Nebraska), soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and other forage crops. Also significant is livestock farming including cattle and hogs.<sup>63</sup>

### Robert Reed Cooley in Nebraska

The first solid date for Robert’s presence in Pierce County is 18 Jan 1893 when Robert appeared on a list of petit juror candidates in Pierce County.<sup>64</sup> The next solid date was the birth of Glenn Syren Cooley on 14 Jul 1894.<sup>65</sup> The name Syren was taken from Glenn’s maternal uncle Syren Ambrose Owen (b. May 1845).

In the *Plainview News* Robert’s name again appeared in a list of petit jurors “drawn by Sheriff Hass and Court Clerk Ohilvers for district court to be held in Pierce February 26th 1900: ...Robt Cooley...<sup>66</sup>.

### US Census 1900

Just a few months after Robert’s February jury duty, the United States Census of 1900 was held. The following data were obtained by the enumerator on 11 Jun 1900 in the Dry Creek Precinct:

- Head of Household: Robert Cooley ae 55, Occu, Farmer; Owned, mortgaged farm
- Housewife: Stella Owen ae 50
- Son Robert Berton (twin) ae 23; Occu, Farm Laborer
- Son Herbert Merton (twin) ae 23; Occu, Farm Laborer
- Son Glenn Syren ae 5
- All could read and write

Currently the Dry Creek precinct is divided into north and south with Plainview as the north-south dividing line (latitude 42.3°N). However, there was only one Dry Creek precinct at the time so it is assumed it was both North Dry Creek and South Dry Creek.



The following is a 1920 Dry Creek map for reference; Robert's farm was two miles west and two miles north of Plainview so, if current, he would be in North Dry Creek (X on the map).



## The Decade 1900 to 1910

The twins went their separate ways in the early 1900s. Mert went to Crofton to engage in the newspaper business eventually establishing his own newspaper prior to 1907, *The Crofton News*. Two boys were born to Mert and his first wife, Elizabeth Holliday: Ronald Delos Cooley, 28 Jan 1906 and Merton Beth Cooley 7 Dec 1907. Shortly after Merton Beth's birth, Elizabeth died whereupon Ronald went to live with his grandparents Robert Reed and Stella Alfresine Owen and Beth went to live with his Uncle Bert and Aunt Carrie.

Bert was a school teacher eventually moving to the Royal area with wife Carrie Louella and sons Dale and Lyle, and nephew Beth. He was principal at the McLean High School and sometimes referred to as "Prof".

Glenn Cooley, their third son, remained with the family while they lived in Nebraska.

Some information about the Cooleys during first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been gleaned from the "locals"<sup>a</sup> in various Pierce County newspapers. For instance, from the *Plainview Republican*: "The Robert Cooley family northwest of town is reported sick".<sup>67</sup>

Here is another: "Robert Nichols returned Wednesday from Wyoming where he...and Mert Cooley were guests at the Robt Cooley home northwest of this city during Christmas week".<sup>68</sup>

The useful genealogical information, however, began in 1909 when Robert decided that a move farther west to Colorado was necessary. Appearing in the *Plainview News*:

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<sup>a</sup> Locals are short paragraphs concerning the happenings of local residents.

Robert Cooley dropped into the office Tuesday and renewed for this household necessity [the Plainview News]. Mr. Cooley sold his farm a few miles northwest of town [to John Woostrel] for \$62.50 an acre and expects to leave the country. He and his son Mert, who is in the newspaper business at Crofton [Nebraska], will leave Friday to look over the country in the vicinity of Flagler, Colorado, to which place they move. We are sorry to see such good old settlers as the Cooley family leave this section, but hope for their prosperity and improved health wherever they may decide to locate.<sup>69</sup>

After the farm was sold a public sale was held.

Robert Cooley will hold a public sale at his farm four miles northwest of Plainview on Jan 27th 1910 at which time he will offer for sale two head of horses, 13 head of cattle, 29 head of hogs, five dozen chickens, farming machinery and household goods, 1200 bu corn, 500 bu good White Russian seed oats and numerous articles. Usual terms. Big free lunch at noon. Sale to begin at 10:00 o'clock a. m. sharp. W. L. Mote clerk, W. Kirk auctioneer.<sup>70</sup>

Robert hoped that the drier climes of Colorado would help to maintain his and his family's health

Robert Cooley's sale was held today at his place northwest of town. Mr Cooley is purchasing land near Flagler Colo upon which he expects to move in the spring. Mr Cooley says that it is not because he does not like this country that he contemplates moving but because he hopes to improve the health of his family by the change of climate. We are very sorry that this excellent family is going to leave us.<sup>71</sup>

By late February 1910 the move had been accomplished.

A letter from Robert Cooley locates them at their home near Flagler, Colorado, and instructs us to forward them the [Plainview] News. He promises to write and give us a description of that country at a later date.<sup>72</sup>

## **The Great Plains of Northeastern Colorado**

Early in 1910 the Robert Reed Cooley family consisting of Robert Reed himself, his wife Stella Owen, son Glenn Syren, and grandchild Ronald Delos together with Robert Berton's family comprising R.B., his wife C.L. Miller, first child Dale, and nephew Merton Beth, migrated to Kit Carson County Colorado.

Robert Reed purchased a relinquishment (an abandoned homestead) at the west edge of Flagler and Robert Berton purchased 158 acres about four miles west and five miles north of Flagler. Adjacent north of Bert's property, land was purchased for Herbert Merton. Mert's wife Edith Jones was in Colorado in 1910 and 1911 since their daughter Dixie was born in Kit Carson County 4 Aug 1911. It is not clear that Mert himself resided in Colorado during that time span since he continued publishing the *Crofton Journal* and teaching school.

Strangely, the Robert Reed Cooley household (Robert, Stella, and grandchild Ronald) was skipped in the US 1910 census held just three months after their arrival (more detail below). To elucidate an approximation of Robert Reed's and Stella's situation in Flagler some space here will be devoted to Bert Cooley's arrival in the Flagler area.

The R.B. Cooley family, according to Beth Cooley, "...was on a homestead nine miles northwest of Flagler and we had [five] years to prove up the claim". Dale Cooley explains: "When we went to the homestead there was a sod house already there. It was a one-room affair with a cow-chip-burning stove in one end and a bed in the other".

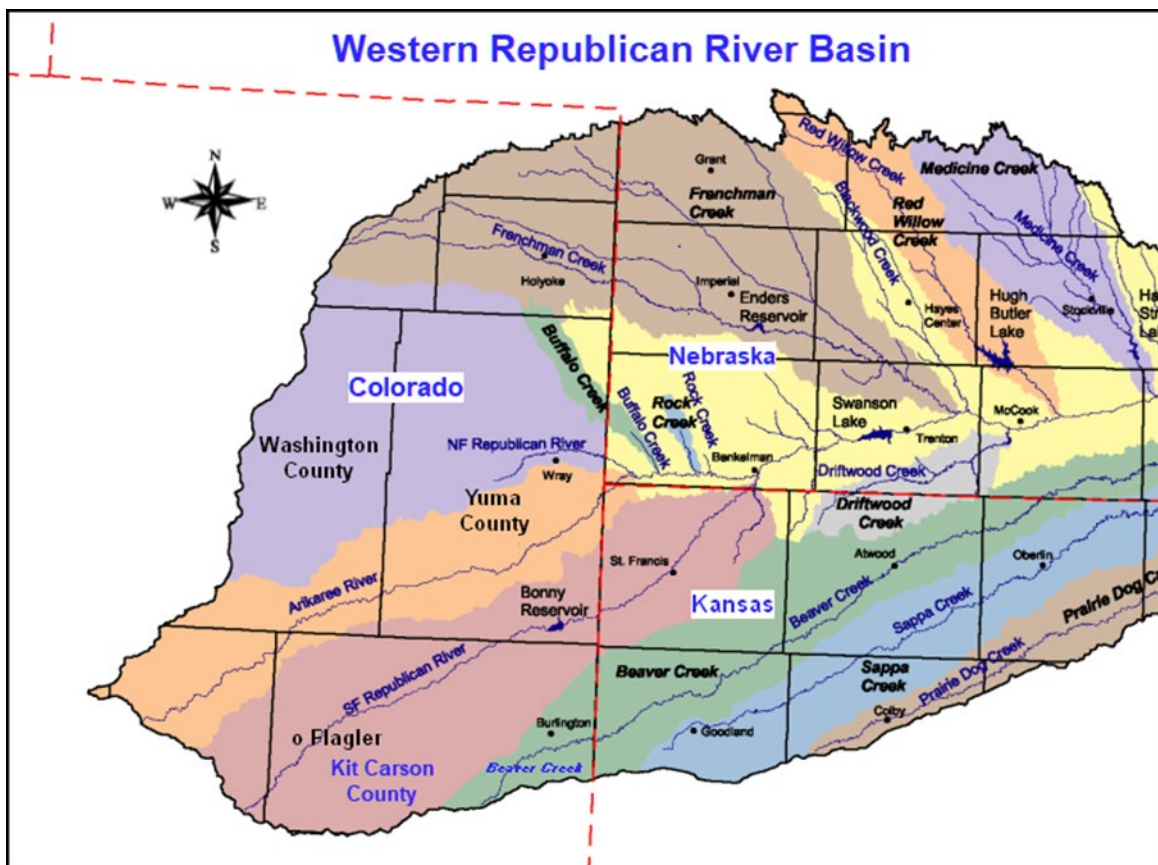
Bert began his career in Colorado as a teacher earning \$40 per month at the Huntley school about seven miles due north of Flagler while Carrie Louella taught at the Van Patten school at \$35 per month. In the summer of 1910 Bert went north to the tiny town of Otis (on the Burlington, Missouri River Line) to found its

first newspaper the *Otis Independent*. Lou, Dale, and Beth occupied the Flagler homestead to fulfill the requirements of the Homestead Act that required continuous residency for five years.<sup>73</sup>

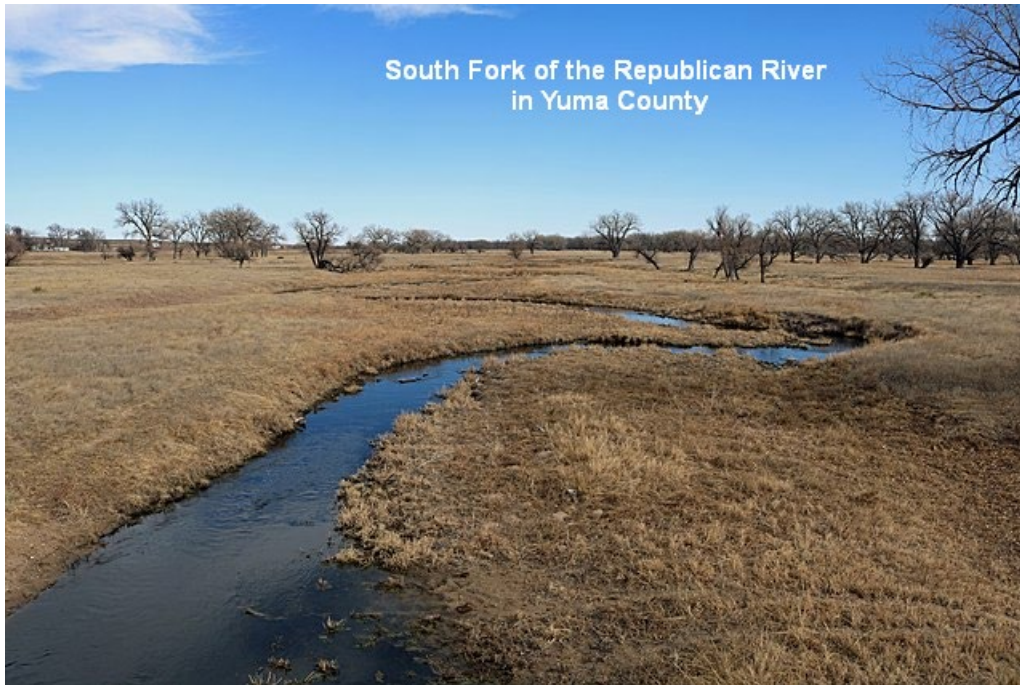
## Kit Carson County Colorado

Kit Carson County, named for fur trapper and Army scout Kit Carson, covers 2,162 square miles of the Great Plains in eastern Colorado. It is one of the state's most productive agricultural counties. Like much of eastern Colorado and western Kansas, Kit Carson County is arid but contains several water sources, including the South Fork of the Republican River draining most of the county, a short segment of the Arikaree River at the northwest corner, and Beaver Creek in the southeast.

The map below highlights Kit Carson County and the position of Flagler near the South Fork of the Republican River.<sup>74</sup> The Arikaree River's source is in the plains of eastern Colorado, near the most eastern part of Elbert County. It then flows northeast cutting across a small corner of Kit Carson County and on into Yuma County, from where it continues to travel east and crosses the state border to Kansas and flows through its northwest corner and into Nebraska where it meets the Republican River.<sup>75</sup>



Lest you think these tributaries are major sources of water check the following picture of the South Fork of the Republican River near Hale, Yuma County, Colorado. In western Kit Carson County the South Fork is a dry creek most of the year.



## **History of the eastern Colorado Plains**

### **Native Americans**

From the 11th century to the 15th century Itskari cultures occupied parts of northeastern Colorado, including present-day Kit Carson County. These people fished, farmed, and hunted buffalo, living in earthen lodges and crafting ceramic pots. After three to four centuries it appears environmental pressures, most likely drought, caused them to gradually abandon the region. There is little evidence of their presence in the area by the mid-fifteenth century.

The rapid expansion of the Lakota during the late 18th and early 19th centuries displaced a number of equestrian tribes from present-day South Dakota and Montana to the plains of present Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska. Among those tribes were the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Kiowa who followed buffalo herds across the plains living in cone-shaped dwellings called tipis.

Then the slow genocide began with the incursion of whites onto the Great Plains starting about 1840. The Gold Rush of 1848-49 drew more and more whites westward, always displacing Native Americans through a long series of broken treaties with the United States Government.

In July 1858, the Pikes Peak Gold Rush began in western Kansas Territory and southwestern Nebraska Territory and lasted roughly to the creation of the Colorado Territory on February 28, 1861. An estimated 100,000 gold seekers took part in one of the greatest gold rushes in North American history.

Afterwards, whites began demanding ownership of land mostly by force. Continuing with its duplicitous ways, the US Government began stripping away the Native Americans rights to the land of the Great Plains. In 1861 the Treaty of Fort Wise relegated the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes to a small reservation in eastern Colorado Territory. It was on that reservation the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864 occurred. Col John Chivington and the Third Colorado Volunteers slaughtered some 150 peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho—mostly women, children, and the elderly. Later, Chivington told the press he had no regrets about the massacre and that he would do it again if needed.

Enraged Cheyenne and Arapaho warriors, along with other Plains Indians, led reprisal attacks against the US Army and white citizens in Colorado. It was all for naught, however. The last major engagement between Native Americans and US troops in Colorado occurred in 1869 at Summit Springs, Washington County, where the Cheyenne leader Tall Bull was killed.

Most of the Cheyenne and Arapaho in the area of present-day Kit Carson County were removed to a reservation in Oklahoma per the Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867.

## **White development of Kit Carson County**

In the 1870s the County was part of a popular cattle trail from Texas to Denver bringing ranchers to the area to become its first permanent white residents. The Colorado Silver Boom began in 1879 bringing more and more migrants to the west. Colorado became a state in 1876 prompting the great railroad expansion to the west.

## **Railroad**

On 19 Mar 1886, a charter was issued to the Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska Railway Company (CK&N) to build the Kansas and Colorado trackage to be used by the Rock Island Railroad. The infrastructure had come out of Omaha and was in central Kansas by 1887. By 1889 it had built west across eastern Colorado to Colorado Springs via the Colorado towns Burlington, Stratton, Flagler, Arriba, and Limon to name a few. The Rock Island Line began Chicago-Colorado service via Omaha on August 16, 1891 bringing homesteaders that eventually brought on land disputes with the ranchers sometimes resulting in violence.

Kit Carson County was erected in 1889 and was settled by Anglo-Americans, Germans, Russians, and northern European immigrants.

## **Flagler**

Flagler<sup>76</sup> got its start as a post office and general store called Bowser that began operations in early 1888 with Bennett Robinson as owner and postmaster. In mid-1888 the CK&N tracks had arrived at Goodland Kansas, about 70 miles east of Flagler. At the rate of two miles-one furlong per day, the rail head arrived at Bowser in August 1888 but much to the chagrin of Mr. Robinson the rail company continued laying track on west about a mile where they established a site for a depot naming it Malowe.<sup>77</sup> In those days, the railroads were King of the Hill on the Great Plains and they called the shots for land use.

On 13 Oct 1888 the post office was moved from Bowser to the Malowe settlement which was renamed Flagler for oil tycoon and railroad investor Henry Flagler.

The first newspaper was the *Flagler Register* (1888-90). Next was the religious newspaper *The Messenger of Love*, no dates, then the *Flagler Advance* (1891-5), the *Golden Rule* (1893-4), the *Flagler Progress* (1908-1918), and the *Flagler News* (1913 to date).<sup>78</sup>

The town was incorporated 2 Nov 1916. The Flagler Telephone Company had lines in operation in 1917 and the Flagler Oil and Gas Company began drilling for oil.

The economy of Flagler and the surrounding area is composed largely of agriculture, specifically winter wheat and corn production.



## 1910 Census in Colorado

The United States Census of 1910 census was conducted in Flagler and the surrounding area (Precinct 4) from 9 Apr 1910 to 22 May 1910. For some unfathomable reason only the Robert B Cooley (Bert) household was enumerated. Robert Reed Cooley and Herbert Merton Cooley were skipped. It's not clear where Mert was located at the time but he was neither enumerated in Kit Carson County nor Crofton, Knox County, Nebraska (where he owned a newspaper).

## Descendants of Robert Reed Cooley

To see a five-generation descendant list go to [Appendix I](#).

## **Robert Reed Cooley's life comes to an end**

Robert died 29 Dec 1917 aged 70 years, 7 months, 14 days. An excellent obituary was published in the Flagler News which is reproduced here in its entirety. Some clarification edits have been made.

### **ROBERT REED COOLEY ANSWERS LAST CALL**

The Flagler (Colorado) News Vol. V, No. 50, 3 Jan 1918, p. 4., col. 3 Will A. Borland, ed

This community was grieved last Friday when the word was spread about town that Robert Cooley had passed away on 28 Dec 1917. Mr. Cooley was a man who was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him, and while the writer had known him but two years, still I had learned to love and respect him. His genial disposition and hearty greeting had endeared him to our people and he will be greatly missed in the community.

Robert Reed Cooley was born to Andrew Sutherland Cooley and Salome Warren Cooley in Garnavillo, Iowa 14 May 1847 and died at his home near Flagler, Colo., December 28, 1917, at the age of 70 years, 7 months and 14 days, death being due to apoplexy [a sudden loss of consciousness resulting when the rupture or occlusion of a blood vessel leads to oxygen lack in the brain].

Funeral services were held at the Congregational church in Flagler on Monday morning, December 31st [1918], at 11 o'clock, conducted by the pastor, Rev. A. W. Moore. His text was found in Phil. 1-21: "To me, to live is Christ, to die is gain." Businesses of Flagler were closed during services.

He lived with his parents in Garnavillo [Clayton County, Iowa] until young manhood, when he and his father, A. S. Cooley, disposed of his property near that place and purchased a farm near McGregor, Iowa, where he was in the nursery business several years [This ambiguous quote is from The History of Clayton County Iowa, 1882].

He was united in marriage with Stella A. Owen on December 10, 1874 in McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa.

To this union were born four children: Twins Herbert Merton (Mert) and Robert Berton (Bert) on 20 Oct 1875 in McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa; Verne Alton on 8 May 1880 in McGregor, and Glenn Syren on 14 Jul 1894 in Plainview, Pierce County, Nebraska. Herbert Merton was drowned in the Missouri River near Yankton, S.D., 4 Nov 1914 and Verne Alton died at McGregor Iowa, 5 Aug 1881, at the age of 15 months.

In the spring of 1886 Robert Reed and his family consisting of himself, wife Stella, and twin sons Mert and Bert moved to Plainview, Nebr., where he resided until the spring of 1910 when he migrated to Kit Carson County Colorado where he bought a relinquishment northwest of Flagler.

Robert Cooley was a true man; a man who gave almost his entire life to the service of others. For three years he took care of a helpless brother who was wounded in the Civil War [Peter S. Cooley]. This ordeal practically undermined his health, but he never complained.

Mr. Cooley is survived by his wife, Stella, and two sons, Robert Berton of Otis, Colo., and Glenn Syren of Flagler.

He is also survived by six grand-children, one of whom, Ronald Cooley, has lived with his grandparents since the death of his mother, Elizabeth Holliday Cooley, in December of 1907.

A large number of sympathizing friends and associates assembled to pay their last respects to one whom they loved, and the business houses of Flagler were closed during the services. The floral offerings were abundant and beautiful. The last remains were laid to their final rest in the Flagler cemetery. The News joins with the large circle of friend and acquaintances in extending sympathy to the bereaved wife and children in their time of sorrow.

# Stella Alfresine Owen

Stella Alfresine Owen was born to Ambrose Owen (1814-1902) and Miranda L. Diggins (1827-after 1902) in Alden Township,<sup>79</sup> McHenry County,<sup>80</sup> Illinois on 21 May 1850.

From Ambrose Owen's obituary "Mr. Ambrose Owen died last Friday at his home [in Knox County Nebraska] aged 87 years, 9 months and two days. He was born in Chittenden County,<sup>81</sup> Vermont in 1814 and was married to Miranda L. Diggins, March 23, 1844 in McHenry County, Illinois. [Miranda Diggins was born 28 May 1827 in Waitsfield,<sup>82</sup> Washington County,<sup>83</sup> Vermont]." There is sparse information about Miranda L Diggins online. In fact, she disappeared from official records after 1902 (her husband's death year).

## The Owen Line

Stella descends from an illustrious line of Owen ancestors including her immigrant ancestor John Owen<sup>84</sup> (possibly born in Wales in 1624) who was a founder of Windsor, Connecticut Colony in 1650.<sup>85</sup>

Here are the direct line descendants of John Owen 1624.

- 1-**John Owen Sr** b. Abt 1624, d. 18 Feb 1697/98  
+Rebecca Wade b. unknown, d. 3 Dec 1711
- 2-**Joseph Owen** b. 23 Oct 1660, d. Abt 1735-1746,  
+Esther Osborn b. 9 Aug 1662, d. unknown
- 3-**Joshua Owen** b. After 1692, d. After 18 Oct 1755  
+Margaret Woodworth b. abt 1694, d. abt 1755
- 4-**Elijah Owen-1** b. 29 Jan 1721/22, d. abt Jun 1799  
+Olive Beeman b. Abt 1735, d. 17 Jun 1792
- 5-**Julius Augustus Owen** b. 23 Apr 1769, d. After 1850  
+Rebecca Murray b. abt 1780, d. abt 1862
- 6-**Ambrose Owen-2** b. 31 May 1814, d. 28 Feb 1902  
+Miranda L. Diggins b. 28 May 1827, d. after 1902
- 7-**Stella Alfresine Owen** b. 21 May 1850, d. 10 Jun 1920  
+Robert Reed Cooley b. 14 May 1847, d. 8 Dec 1917

Please consult [Appendix II](#) for a detailed descendant chart for John Owen 1824.

## Stella in the census

The United States Census of 1920 was enumerated on 23 Feb 1920 (just four months before Stella's death) in Enumeration District 133, Precinct 6 which included Flagler. Robert Reed had died in 1917 so there were three family members left: Stella Owen (ae 70) head of household; son Glenn Syren (ae 26) and grandson Ronald (ae 14). All were able to read and write. The trade or profession of Stella, none; Glenn, labour (sic) as a wage worker in a lumber yard; and Ronald, none.

1920 US census, CO, Kit Carson, Precinct 6\_23 Feb 1920

STATE Colorado COUNTY Kit Carson TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Precinct 6 NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Flagler ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 23 DAY OF February, 1920. SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT No. 2 SHEET No. 28B 6680 9695

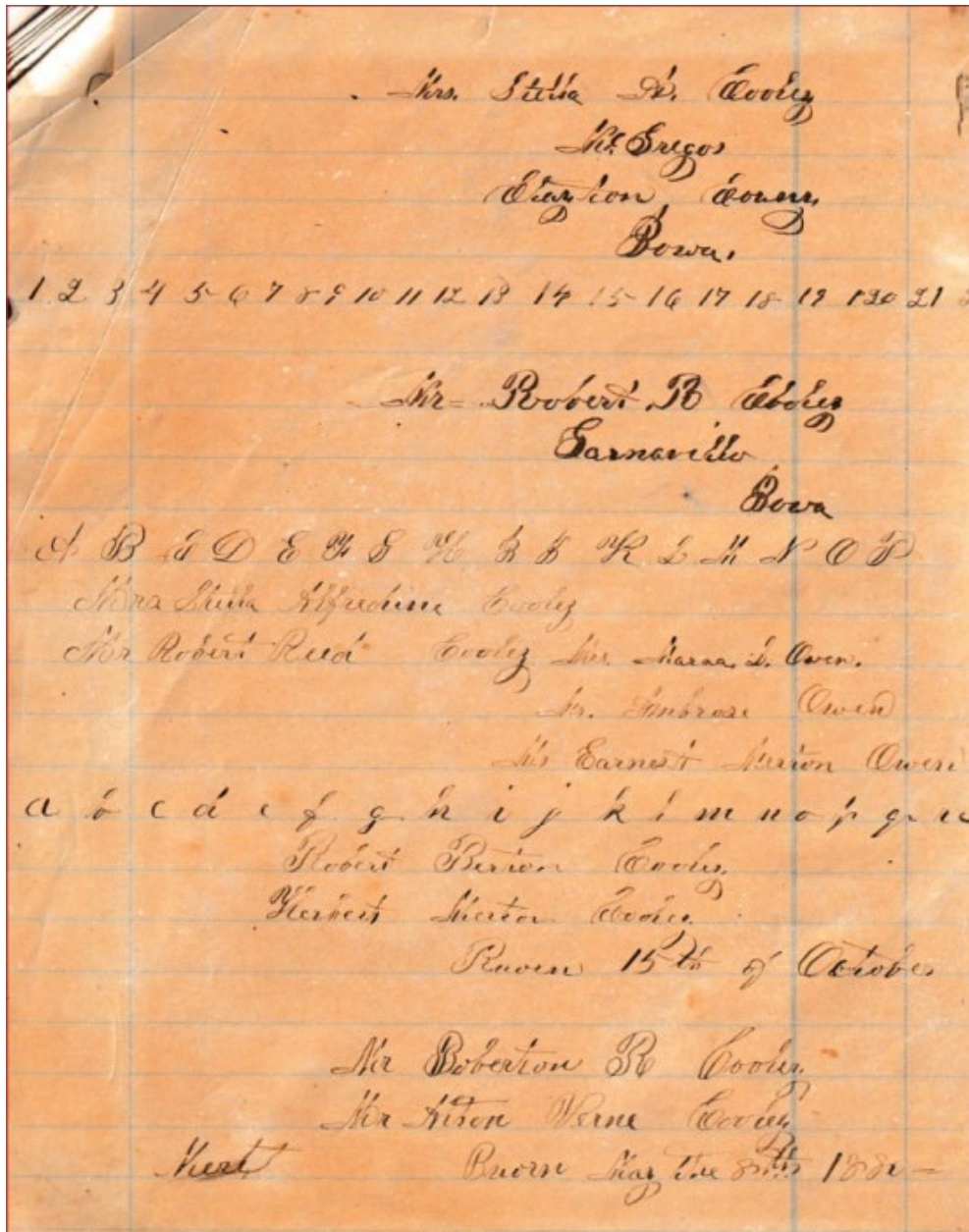
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

| PLACE OF BIRTH | NAME         | RELATION | SEX | RACE | CITIZENSHIP | EDUCATION | ABILITY AND SERVICE |       |       | COOPERATION |
|----------------|--------------|----------|-----|------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------------|
|                |              |          |     |      |             |           | READ                | WRITE | OTHER |             |
| Illinois       | Stella Owen  | Head     | F   | W    | U.S. born   | U.S. born | None                | None  | None  | None        |
| Illinois       | Glenn Syren  | Son      | M   | W    | U.S. born   | U.S. born | None                | None  | None  | None        |
| Illinois       | Ronald Syren | Grandson | M   | W    | U.S. born   | U.S. born | None                | None  | None  | None        |



## Stella in genealogical records

Stella Owen neither left a diary nor any written material that could shed light on her day-to-day life. Her predicament was shared with most women before the 20<sup>th</sup> century whose lives were secondary to men. However, being a child of the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century she participated in an upswing in women's literacy. Some evidence of her formal education was found on pages of her husband's *Account Book*. On a page, shown below, she exercised her considerable skill in handwriting.



While well-educated, Stella, and the women of her generation, still played the secondary role of "housekeeper" or "housewife" as found in all the censuses from 1850 on through 1910. In the 1920 census the space for her occupation was simply left blank while her son, Glenn, was listed as labourer. In her obituary we find she was "always quiet and greatly devoted to her home and children" (see full obituary below).

## Women in Genealogy

Tracing women in genealogy has been a continuing problem for genealogists due to historical practices and record-keeping norms. In many cultures, women traditionally changed their surnames upon marriage, making it more challenging to follow their lineage. Additionally, women's contributions and roles were often not as extensively documented as those of men.

Women had limited legal rights and property was registered in their husbands' names further complicating the tracing process. If the male head of household died before his wife, his property generally went to his eldest son. If the son or sons were unavailable, the wife was able to inherit the property but her name was always preceded by "widow". Women couldn't be themselves.

Historical records have always focused more on men and details about women's lives especially before certain periods were scarce. In western nations, women, except for royalty, were not literate, always playing a secondary role to men. Complicating things, the woman's surname (maiden name) was seldom recorded on official documents. On gravestones, the women's name was always preceded by "wife of..." with no maiden name.

In England, the adoption of surnames came with the Norman invasion in 1066. In the years following, the wife taking her husband's surname became a symbol of unity and inheritance. The Renaissance and subsequent Early Modern period saw the crystallization of family names and the establishment of hereditary surnames. It became a common practice for a woman to adopt her husband's surname upon marriage, reflecting the patriarchal social structures of the time. Over time, legal systems and cultural norms solidified the tradition of women taking their husband's surname. Laws and customs reinforced this practice, making it a standard societal expectation.

While the practice of women taking their husband's surname is still widespread, there has been a gradual shift in recent decades. Many women now choose to keep their maiden names or hyphenate their surnames, reflecting changing attitudes toward gender roles and individual identity.<sup>86</sup>

## Women's Rights

Women had few rights in the early 19th century. They could not own property, could not vote, did not have legal rights to their children, could not work outside the home, and were generally controlled by their husbands. Their roles were encompassed by the domestic sphere. They were largely in charge of domestic duties, such as raising children and housework, and were confined to their homes, while men participated in public duties, such as politics and commerce.<sup>87</sup>

## Women's literacy

Literacy varied country-by-country with women always lagging men (Netherlands 18th century, Italy, not until the 20th century). In England, education has always been influenced by gender, class, religion and nationality. Historically, women's education was designed to teach middle class and upper class girls enough to make them attractive marriage material for men and lessons were often taught in the home by poorly educated governesses. Education was seen as a way of making women better wives and mothers, not as a way of transforming their lives. One British parliamentary report in the 19th century said girls should be educated to be "decorative, modest, marriageable beings".<sup>88</sup>

In the first half of the 19th century, only a minority of American children, both girls and boys, spent any meaningful time in a classroom. An even smaller minority received any secondary education.

The need for more schools led to a growing demand for teachers and America began to look to women to fulfill this role. Literacy for American women began in the mid-19th century and was equal to that of men by 1900.<sup>89</sup>

## Stella's life comes to an end

### Stella Alfresine Owen Obituary<sup>90</sup>

Mrs. Cooley was one of the really estimable old ladies of Flagler, always quiet and greatly devoted to her home and children.

In early childhood she came with her parents to West Union, Fayette County, Iowa, later moving to McGregor, Iowa, where she was married to Robert Reed Cooley on 10 Dec 1874.

In 1886 she came with her husband and children to Plainview, Nebraska, where they resided until 1910 when they disposed of their property and came to Flagler, Kit Carson County, Colorado where they lived on a farm just west of town until a short time ago when the deceased and her son, Glenn, moved to town to property he recently purchased.

She also leaves a brother, Ernest M. Owen of Flagler, and a sister, Mrs. Lucy Shaffer who makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Groves just south of Flagler. – *Flagler News*

# Appendix I

## Descendants of Robert Reed Cooley

Page 1

**1-Robert Reed Cooley b. 14 May 1847, Garnavillo Twp, Clayton Co, Iowa, d. 28 Dec 1917, Flagler, Kit Carson Co, Colorado**

+Stella Alfresine Owen b. 21 May 1850, Alden Twp, McHenry Co, Illinois, d. 10 Jun 1920, Flagler, Kit Carson Co, Colorado

**2-Robert Berton Cooley b. 15 Oct 1875, McGregor, Clayton Co, Iowa, d. 12 Dec 1962, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado**

+Carrie Louella Miller b. 27 May 1883, Beaman, Grundy Co, Iowa, d. 10 Aug 1973, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado

3-Orville Dale Cooley b. 5 Apr 1903, Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska, d. 12 May 1994, Riverside, Riverside Co, California

+Alice Mildred Skinner b. 26 Mar 1905, Clarence, Shelby Co, Missouri, d. 28 Oct 1996, Riverside, Riverside Co, California

4-Robert Leonard Cooley b. 25 Jan 1933, Otis, Washington Co, Colorado, d. 14 Nov 2013, Menifee, Riverside Co, California

+Nancy Adair Nolan b. 20 Sep 1934, Greeley, Weld Co, Colorado, d. 16 Nov 1999, Denver, Denver Co, Colorado

5-Susan Adair Cooley b. 23 Nov 1954, Colorado

5-Randy Cooley b. 16 Apr 1957, Colorado

5-Carol Cooley b. 11 Mar 1963, Colorado

5-Vincent Cooley b. 4 Aug 1964, Colorado

+Joan Williams Donnelson

5-Kristianna Donnelson Cooley

4-Jill Irene Cooley b. 11 Oct 1935, Limon, Lincoln Co, Colorado

+David Bruce Johnson b. 20 Feb 1937, Patoka, Gibson Co, Indiana, d. 20 Dec 2015, Palm Desert, Riverside Co, California

5-Josh David Johnson b. 8 Sep 1965, Hugo, Lincoln Co, Colorado

+Joseph Roger Gump b. 31 May 1929, Denver, Denver Co, Colorado, d. 22 Aug 1987, Englewood, Jefferson Co, Colorado

5-Gigi Gump b. 1 Jul 1960, Denver, Denver Co, Colorado

3-Carlyle Berton Cooley b. 18 May 1905, Near Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska, d. 10 May 1909, Near Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska

+Unknown

3-Leo Cooley b. 17 Feb 1907, Savage (Royal), Antelope Co, Nebraska, d. 3 Mar 1907, Savage (Royal), Antelope Co, Nebraska

+Unknown

**3-Clifford Coyne Cooley b. 15 Jul 1912, Otis, Washington Co, Colorado, d. 5 Dec 1979, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado**

+Margaret May Sears b. 23 May 1912, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado, d. 18 Jan 1987, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado

**4-Daniel Berton Cooley b. 25 Oct 1939, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado**

+Unknown

4-Catherine Lou Cooley b. 14 Nov 1943, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado, d. 19 Aug 2019, Sacramento, Sacramento Co, California

+Richard Martig Rohne b. 21 Sep 1943, St. Paul, Anoka Co, Minnesota

5-Danella Jo Rohne b. 11 Mar 1969, Denver, Denver Co, Colorado

5-Holly Christelle Rohne b. 11 Feb 1971, Denver, Denver Co, Colorado

4-Jo Ellen Cooley PhD b. 19 Nov 1953, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado

+Charles Lawrence Rebich b. 5 Oct 1942, Hamilton, Ravalli Co, Montana

+Robert Joseph Guerreiro b. Est 12 Oct 1951, Massachusetts

+Gregory Arthur Villarosa PhD b. 13 Aug 1959, Ridgewood, Bergen Co, New Jersey

5-Gregory Arthur II Villarosa b. 3 Mar 1985, Tupelo, Lee Co, Mississippi

5-Margo Cooley Villarosa b. 14 Apr 1987, Pearl, Rankin Co, Mississippi

+Charles William Gaffney b. Abt 1947, Probably North Carolina

3-Robert Miller Cooley b. 20 Sep 1914, Otis, Washington Co, Colorado, d. 4 Nov 1992, Rawlins, Carbon Co, Wyoming

+Eleanor Newcomb b. 30 Nov 1915, Melba, Canyon Co, Idaho, d. 13 Jul 2008, Canon City, Fremont Co, Colorado

4-Richard Lewis Cooley b. 11 Jan 1940, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado

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## Appendix I continued

### Descendants of Robert Reed Cooley

Page 2

- +Sharon Anne Webber b. 3 Nov 1940, Brush, Morgan Co, Colorado (see Richard Lewis Cooley on page 1)
    - 5-Steven Wayne Cooley b. 18 Sep 1969, Carmichael, Sacramento Co, California
    - 5-Suzanne Marie Cooley b. 30 Mar 1973, Reno, Washoe Co, Nevada
- 3-Gwen Cooley b. 23 Jan 1921, Otis, Washington Co, Colorado, d. 23 Jan 1921, Otis, Washington Co, Colorado
  - +Unknown
- 2-Herbert Merton Cooley b. 15 Oct 1875, McGregor, Clayton Co, Iowa, d. 4 Nov 1914, Yankton, Yankton Co, South Dakota
  - +Edith Jones b. 15 Aug 1879, Iowa, d. Abt 1914, Knox County, Nebraska
    - 3-Edith Dixie Cooley b. 4 Aug 1911, Flagler, Kit Carson Co, Colorado, d. 10 Aug 1981, Chicago, Cook Co, Illinois
      - +Daniel Thomas Desmond Sr b. 10 Aug 1907, Sioux City, Woodbury Co, Iowa, d. 4 Aug 1975, Chicago, Cook Co, Illinois
        - 4-Daniel Thomas Desmond Jr b. 21 Dec 1942, Chicago, Cook Co, Illinois
          - +Patricia Ann McKay
          - +Mindy Sue Hayes
          - +Joanne Marie O'Connor
        - 4-Mary Denise Desmond b. 28 Jul 1947, Chicago, Cook Co, Illinois
          - +Donald Leslie Williams b. 5 May 1949, Chicago, Cook Co, Illinois
- +Jane Elizabeth Holliday b. 20 Mar 1884, Castle Sowerby, Cumberland, England, d. 1 Jan 1908, Crofton, Knox Co, Nebraska
  - 3-Ronald Delos Cooley b. 28 Jan 1906, Crofton, Knox Co, Nebraska, d. 11 Jan 1980, St Luke's Hospital, Denver, Colorado
    - +Irene Elva Skinner b. 29 Jul 1907, Anabel, Macon Co, Missouri, d. 6 Dec 1990, Hugo, Lincoln Co, Colorado
      - 4-Luanne Mildred Cooley b. 22 Apr 1940, Limon, Lincoln Co, Colorado, d. 19 Dec 2021, Limon, Lincoln Co, Colorado
        - +Larry Gene Winkelman b. 17 Sep 1937, Dodge City, Ford Co, Kansas
          - 5-Cody Wayne Winkelman b. 10 May 1960, Flagler, Kit Carson Co, Colorado
          - 5-Joel Ronald Winkelman b. 8 Feb 1965, Hugo, Lincoln Co, Colorado
          - 5-Larissa Lu Winkelman b. 13 Oct 1972, Hugo, Lincoln Co, Colorado
      - 4-James Ronald Cooley b. 16 Dec 1943, Denver, Denver Co, Colorado
        - +Maria Helen Morrison b. 15 Jun 1950, Holdrege, Phelps Co, Nebraska, d. 8 May 2014, Oxford, Furnas and Harlan Counties, Nebraska
          - 5-Christopher Neil Ronald Cooley b. 23 Dec 1982, Omaha, Douglas Co, Nebraska
          - 5-Robert James Frederick Cooley b. 13 Sep 1983, McCook, Red Willow Co, Nebraska
  - 3-Merton Beth Cooley b. 7 Dec 1907, Crofton, Knox Co, Nebraska, d. 3 Nov 1992, Sterling, Logan Co, Colorado
    - +Viola Myfanwy Kyffin b. 20 Jan 1908, Denver, Denver Co, Colorado, d. 1 May 1995, Brush (Sunset Manor), Ft Morgan Co, Colorado
      - 4-Herbert Merton Cooley b. 25 Aug 1933, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado, d. 8 Jan 1979, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado
        - +Donna Lee Mountain b. 16 Feb 1934, Washington County, Colorado, d. 31 Jan 2016, Longmont, Boulder Co, Colorado
          - 5-Dorcas Mountain b. , Washington County, Colorado
          - 5-Donita Mountain b. , Washington County, Colorado
          - 5-Douglas Mountain b. , Washington County, Colorado
          - 5-Dale Leroy Cooley b. 24 May 1961, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado, d. 19 Feb 2015, Longmont, Boulder Co, Colorado
- 2-Alton Verne Cooley b. 8 May 1880, McGregor, Clayton Co, Iowa, d. 5 Aug 1881, McGregor, Clayton Co, Iowa
  - +Unknown
- 2-Glenn Syren Cooley b. 14 Jul 1894, Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska, d. 3 Jul 1962, San Diego, San Diego Co, California
  - +Ivy Wood Stebbing-Howe b. 26 Jul 1889, South Dakota, d. 23 Nov 1969, San Diego, San Diego Co, California
  - +Elizabeth (wife of Glenn Syren Cooley) [?] b. Abt 1900, Iowa

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## Appendix II

### Descendants of John Owen Sr

Page 1

**1-John Owen Sr b. Abt 1624, Possibly Wales, d. 18 Feb 1697/98, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut, bur. First Congregational Church Cemetery, Windsor**

+Rebecca Wade b. Hartford County, Connecticut, m. 3 Oct 1650, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut, d. 3 Dec 1711, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut

— 2-Josiah Owen b. 8 Sep 1651, Windsor, Connecticut Colony

+Mary Tucksbury m. 13 Jun 1687, Massebequash (Marblehead)

+Mary Hosford m. 3 Dec 1698, Windsor, Connecticut Colony

— 2-John Owen Jr 1st b. 5 Nov 1652, Windsor, Connecticut Colony

— 2-John Owen Jr 2nd b. 23 Apr 1654, Windsor, Connecticut Colony, d. 15 Jan 1669/70, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut

— 2-Nathaniel Owen b. 9 Aug 1656, Windsor, Connecticut Colony

— 2-Daniel Owen b. 28 Mar 1658, Windsor, Connecticut Colony

**2-Joseph Owen b. 23 Oct 1660, Lebanon, Connecticut Colony, d. Abt 1735-1746, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony**

+Esther Osborn b. 9 Aug 1662, Connecticut Colony, m. Abt 1682, Simsbury, Hartford Co, Connecticut

— 3-Ann Owen b. 9 Nov 1683, Simsbury, Hartford Co, Connecticut Colony

— 3-Joseph Owen Jr b. 29 Jan 1684/85, Simsbury, Hartford Co, Connecticut Colony

— 3-Moses Owen b. 7 Jul 1688, Simsbury, Hartford Co, Connecticut Colony

**3-Joshua Owen b. After 1692, Simsbury, Hartford Co, Connecticut Colony, d. After 18 Oct 1755, Salisbury, Litchfield Co, Connecticut Colony**

+Margaret Woodworth b. Abt 1694, Lebanon, Connecticut Colony, m. 5 Nov 1718, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut, d. Abt 1755, Lebanon, Connecticut Colony

— 4-Jemima Owen b. 26 Jul 1719, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony

— 4-Leonard Owen b. 29 Jan 1719/20, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony

**4-Elijah Owen 1 b. 29 Jan 1721/22, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony, d. Abt Jun 1799, Chittenden County, Vermont**

+Patience Wright m. 21 Oct 1747, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut, d. 19 Mar 1756, Probably New London Co, Connecticut

+Olive Beeman b. Abt 1735, Connecticut Colony, m. 10 Nov 1756, Salisbury, Litchfield Co, Connecticut, d. 17 Jun 1792, Milton, Chittenden Co, Vermont

**5-Julius Augustus Owen b. 23 Apr 1769, Salisbury, Litchfield Co, Connecticut Colony, d. After 1850, McHenry County, Illinois**

+Mehitable Castle m. Abt 1799, Milton, Litchfield Co, Connecticut

— 6-Elonson Owen b. 7 May 1800, d. Abt 1888

— 6-Clarissa Owen b. Abt 1802, Milton, Chittenden Co, Vermont, d. Abt 1866, Harvard, McHenry Co, Illinois

+John Mears b. 7 Sep 1802, Milton, Chittenden Co, Vermont, m. 27 Jun 1824, Milton, Chittenden Co, Vermont, d. 2 Aug 1835, Michigan City, LaPorte Co, Indiana

+Joseph Diggins

+Jedediah Deming

— 6-Julia Owen b. Abt 1804

+Enos Day

— 6-Eliza Owen b. Abt 1806

— 6-Alvin Owen b. [?], d. [?]

— 6-Child vi Owen b. [?], d. [?]

— 6-Mehitable Owen b. Abt 1811, d. [?]

+Rebecca Murray b. Abt 1780, Connecticut, m. 30 Oct 1811, Fairfax, Franklin Co, Vermont, d. Abt 1862, Minnesota

— 6-Lucinda Owen b. Abt 1813, Milton, Chittenden Co, Vermont, d. 24 Feb 1849, Illinois

+Franklin Diggins m. 1837

**6-Ambrose Owen 2 b. 31 May 1814, Milton, Chittenden Co, Vermont, d. 28 Feb 1902, Knox County, Nebraska, bur. Abt 1902, Greenwood Cem, Creighton, Knox Co, Nebraska**

+Miranda L. Diggins b. 28 May 1827, Waitsfield, Washington Co, Vermont, m. 23 Mar 1844, McHenry County, Illinois, d. After 1902, Likely Knox County, Nebraska

— 7-Lucia H Owen b. Abt Apr 1844, Illinois

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## Appendix II continued

### Descendants of John Owen Sr

Page 2

|  |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  | 7-Syren Ambrose Owen b. Abt May 1845, Alden Twp, McHenry Co, Illinois, d. 17 Jul 1923, East St. Louis, St. Clair Co, Illinois   |
|  |  |  |  |  | <b>7-Stella Alfresine Owen b. 21 May 1850, Alden Twp, McHenry Co, Illinois, d. 10 Jun 1920, Flagler, Kit Carson Co, Colorado, bur. 11 Jun 1920, Flagler Cemetery, Kit Carson Co, Colorado</b> |
|  |  |  |  |  | 7-Etta Owen b. Abt 1852, Iowa   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 7-Ernest M. Owen b. Abt Apr 1869, Iowa, d. Abt 1937, Ordway, Crowley Co, Colorado, bur. Abt 1937, Valley View Cem, Crowley Co, Colorado   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 6-Elijah Owen 2 b. After 1815, Milton, Chittenden Co, Vermont   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 5-Ambrose Owen 1 b. 25 Dec 1770, Salisbury, Litchfield Co, Connecticut Colony, d. 20 Nov 1792, Milton, Chittenden Co, Vermont   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 5-Olive Owen b. Abt 1774, Poultney, Rutland Co, Republic of Vermont, d. Abt 1866, New York  |
|  |  |  |  |  | +Isaac Castle b. Abt 1773-1774, d. 26 Mar 1851, Lamoille County, Vermont, bur. Abt Mar 1851, Mtn View Cem, Cambridge, Lamoille Co, Vermont  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 5-Ira Owen b. Abt May 1776, Poultney, Rutland Co, Republic of Vermont, d. 15 Jan 1851, Schuyler County, Illinois, bur. Abt Jan 1851, Gray Cem, Schuyler Co, Illinois                          |
|  |  |  |  |  | +Betsey Castle d. 20 Feb 1845, Schuyler County, Illinois, bur. Abt Feb 1845, Gray Cem, Schuyler Co, Illinois  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 5-Herman Owen b. Abt 1779, Poultney, Rutland Co, Republic of Vermont  |
|  |  |  |  |  | +Abigail (3rd wife of Elijah Owen) [?] m. After 1792, Probably Chittenden Co, Vermont (see Elijah Owen 1 on page 1)   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4-Keziah Owen b. 27 Jun 1723, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4-Joshua Owen b. 7 Feb 1723/24, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4-Eliphalet Owen b. 26 Jun 1727, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4-Esther Owen b. 3 Sep 1730, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4-Althea Owen c. Abt 1734, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4-Martha Owen b. Bef 1740, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4-John Owen 2 b. Bef 1740, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 4-Samuel Owen b. 26 May 1742, Lebanon, New London Co, Connecticut Colony  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 3-Caleb Owen b. [?], Connecticut Colony   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 3-Aaron Owen b. [?], Connecticut Colony   |
|  |  |  |  |  | 2-Mary Owen b. 5 Dec 1662, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 2-Benjamin Owen b. 20 Sep 1664, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut, d. 26 May 1665, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 2-Rebecca Owen b. 28 Mar 1666, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 2-Obadiah Owen b. 12 Dec 1667, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 2-Isaac Owen b. 27 May 1670, Windsor, Hartford Co, Connecticut  |

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## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Family Bible Records from Lou Cooley (Carrie Louella Miller) about 1968 and State of Colorado, Certificate of Death #9411a, Reg Dist 121, Kit Carson Co, Flagler which gives age as 70 yr, 7 mo, 12 days at day of death (28 Dec 1917) indicating 15 May 1847 as his date of birth. [The date of birth given on the death certificate, 12 May 1871, is wrong]

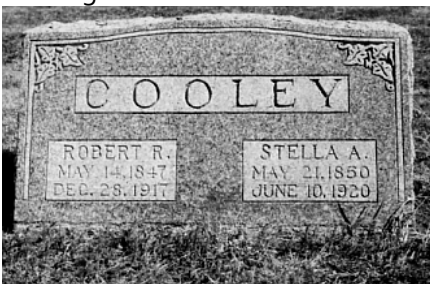
<sup>2</sup> Bible Records and information from Lou Cooley (Carrie Louella Miller) about 1968.

<sup>3</sup> #7179, Reg District 270, Kit Carson, Flagler, State of Colorado; date of birth May 21 "185" (sic) at age 70 years, 20 days which gives 21 May 1850 as the birth date. See her death certificate below.

<sup>4</sup> State of Colorado, Certificate of Death #9411a, Reg Dist 121, Kit Carson Co, Flagler.

STATE OF COLORADO  
 Certificate of Death  
 #9411a  
 PLACE OF DEATH: Flagler, Colo.  
 FULL NAME: Robert Burt Cooley  
 DATE OF DEATH: Dec 28, 1917  
 FATHER: Andrew Buchanan Cooley  
 MOTHER: Elizabeth Cooley

<sup>5</sup> Findagrave Memorial ID 21411997 by Daniel Berton Cooley (7 Sep 2007)



<sup>6</sup> #7179, Reg District 270, Kit Carson, Flagler, State of Colorado; Date of death June 10 1920

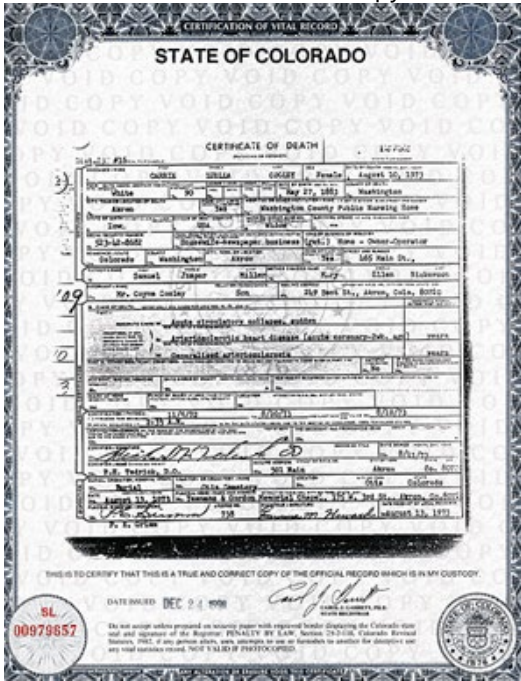
STATE OF COLORADO  
 Certificate of Death  
 #7179  
 PLACE OF DEATH: Flagler  
 FULL NAME: Stella A. Cooley  
 DATE OF DEATH: June 10, 1920  
 FATHER: Andrew Buchanan Cooley  
 MOTHER: Elizabeth Cooley

<sup>7</sup> Findagrave Memorial ID 21412019 created by Daniel Berton Cooley 7 Sep 2007 (see gravestone picture above)

<sup>8</sup> Robert Berton Cooley's World War II Draft Registration Card Serial nr 373; Order nr A397; Date of Registration Sept 12, 1918, applies to Herbert Merton Cooley his twin brother.



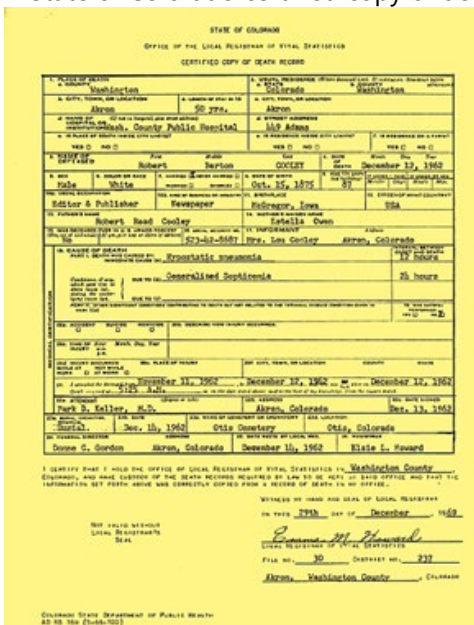
- <sup>9</sup> Nebraska Marriages 1855-1995 Marriage, Pierce, Nebraska, US, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln; FHL microfilm 2,021,735.; Berton Cooley and Luella Miller, 03 Jan 1903.
- <sup>10</sup> Social Security Administration; Washington D.C., USA; Social Security Death Index, Master File; year and month of death, exact birth date, SSN 523-42-8682.
- <sup>11</sup> DBC interview of Carrie Louella Miller in 1968, information from Miller Bible; current Bible location, unknown.
- <sup>12</sup> State of Colorado certified copy of death record for Carrie Louella Miller.



- <sup>13</sup> Findagrave Memorial ID 11070744



- <sup>14</sup> State of Colorado certified copy of death record for Robert Berton Cooley



<sup>15</sup> Findagrave Memorial ID 11070588



<sup>16</sup> Robert Berton Cooley's World War II Draft Registration Card Serial nr 373; Order nr A397; Date of Registration Sept 12, 1918, applies to Herbert Merton Cooley his twin brother.

<sup>17</sup> *Plattsmouth (Neb) Semi-Weekly Journal*, 5 Nov 1914, p7, "Two Men Drowned"; body never recovered

<sup>18</sup> From *Yankton Press and Dakotan*, 4 Nov 1914: Tragedy at Missouri River. O.W. Cass, a druggist of Crofton Neb, and H.M. Cooley, editor of the Crofton Journal were drowned in the Missouri River at 2 o'clock this morning when Mr. Cass' auto, a Ford, plunged over the side of the pontoon bridge into 12 to 14 feet of water. [The bodies of Cass and Cooley were never found]

<sup>19</sup> Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska.; Marriage Records, 1855-1908; State Library and Archives Knox County Marriage Records, p356, Marriage License nr 2065

<sup>20</sup> In the 1891 British census, Greystoke-Cumberland, Dist 15, Civil Parish, Castle Sowerby, p5 sched 29, at address Hall Field we have in the household of Hugh Sutton Holliday, Jane Elizabeth, scholar, ae 7. In the 1900 US Census, Dry Creek, Pierce Co, Nebraska, she was enumerated as "Lizzie" Holliday ae 16

<sup>21</sup> *Plainview Republican*; Publication Date: 9 Jan 1908; Publication Place: Plainview, Nebraska. Exact birth and death dates, and places of birth and death. Note that Jane Elisibeth Holliday of Penrith District, Cumberland County, England is in the section *Births Registered in April, May, and June 1884*, Vol 10b, p465 of Free BMD's database. In other words, not March.

<sup>22</sup> *Plainview Republican*; Publication Date: 9 Jan 1908; Publication Place: Plainview, Nebraska

<sup>23</sup> Findagrave Memorial ID 114423223 by Daniel B Cooley 26 Jul 2013. Note that the current gravestone is a replacement memorial.

<sup>24</sup> Denise Desmond Williams, great-granddaughter of Herbert Merton Cooley supplied me with extensive Jones family history in a series of letters and emails in 2002.

<sup>25</sup> In the 1880 Federal Census (Iowa-Howard-Albion-ED#240, NA Film # T0-0344, pg 425D) dated June 1, she is shown as being age 9/12 with notation of being born in August of the preceding year. Denise Desmond, her granddaughter supplied the exact day (the 15<sup>th</sup> of August) of her birth.

<sup>26</sup> According to a Nebraska Historical Society note on Edith's parents Richard Jones and Josephine Hurley, "Edith Jones Cooley passed away when Dixie [her daughter] was three years old [Dixie b 4 Aug 1911]".

<sup>27</sup> Two sentences, one in the Jones-Hurley section of the Neb Hist Society and the other in the Josephine Hurley obituary, (*Crofton Journal*, Crofton Nebraska, Thursday, May 11, 1922) indicate there was a Jones Family burial ground on their farm 1-S, 1/2-E of Crofton Nebraska. Respectively: (1) "Libbie Jones, Edith's sister, was a country school teacher. She passed away at the age of 16 of diphtheria and was buried in the family plot with her father and sister, Edith" and (2) "Wilbur's mother [Josephine Hurley] passed away in 1922 and was buried beside her husband and two daughters, Edith and Libbie".

<sup>28</sup> Written on the last page of RR Cooley's *Account Book*, assuming it was Stella Owen's very flowery and perfect handwriting, there appeared the name "Alton Verne Cooley" followed by the note: "Born May the 8th 1880".

A photograph of a handwritten note in cursive script. The text reads: "Mr Alton Verne Cooley Born May the 8th 1880". The handwriting is elegant and appears to be from the early 20th century.

Also, in the United States Decennial Census 1880-US-Iowa-Clayton Co-Mendon, (enumerated on June 7th 1880 by A.J. Hafer) his name was spelled "Alton Vern". According to the instructions for the 1880 census, if a child was born in the year of the census, his birth month and day should be entered in Col 7 which it was for Alton Verne: "May 8".

<sup>29</sup> *Iowa Deaths and Burials 1850-1990*; death date 5 Aug 1881; FHL film 1255482, item 1, p16/171.

<sup>30</sup> Findagrave Memorial ID: 75898502 by Daniel B Cooley entered on 3 Sep 2011.

<sup>31</sup> WWI draft registration card signed 5 Jun 1917. Single; Flagler, Colo; occu, farmer employed by Robt Cooley [his father]

<sup>32</sup> 1930 United States Census, Calif, age at first marriage, 20 yrs old.

<sup>33</sup> 1930 US Calif. Age at first marriage was 20. The census is all I have on this person.

<sup>34</sup> *Arizona, County Marriage Records, 1865-1972*, State of Arizona, Affidavit for Marriage License. The 1930 and 1940 censuses show wives Elizabeth (1930) and Ivy (1940).

<sup>35</sup> *California Death Index, 1940-1997*; Event Date, 23 Nov 1969; Birth Date, 26 Jul 1889 in South Dakota.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

<sup>37</sup> California Death Index, 1940-1997, Birth Date: 14 Jul 1894; Birthplace: Nebraska; Death Date: 3 Jul 1962; Death Place: San Diego Calif.

<sup>38</sup> From Robert's obituary in the *Flagler News* (Colorado), Vol 5, #50 (3 Jan 1918): "For three years (Robert Reed Cooley) took care of a helpless brother who was wounded in the Civil War".

<sup>39</sup> The 1850 US census was the first census to list the names of all family members but was very poorly done in Iowa. Lewis F Cooley aged 6/12 was listed as the last of nine children but that last child should have been Ella E Cooley aged 6/12 and Lewis F listed above Robert thereby making Robert as the ninth child, not the eighth. This is verified by subsequent censuses.

<sup>40</sup> In the 1870 US census, there were seven family members: Andrew S. Sr. (ae 65), Salome Warren (ae 60), Peter S. (ae 27), Hersey C. (ae 25), Robert R. (ae 23), and Ella J. (ae 20) and granddaughter Ann Gladden (ae 10) who was attending school.

<sup>41</sup> What caused Garnavillo's decline? One factor could have been the failure to attract a railroad forever dooming it to be an "Inland Town". Since the 1850s several prosperous Clayton County men had invested in the establishment of railroads in the county. Their campaigns suggested that a community without a railroad would be at an extreme disadvantage, with little chance for prosperity or even survival. By 1870 it was clear that a railroad would never come through Garnavillo. Also, Garnavillo had been the Clayton County Seat for many years but it was lost to Elkader in 1854, a severe a blow to the community. Although several attempts were made to regain county seat status, it would never return. Another campaign to establish a college in Garnavillo also failed. All of this compounded sent Garnavillo into a steady decline. The population of Garnavillo was 763 in 2020; it remains a farming community to this day. From *Garnavillo Iowa: Gem of the Prairie, History 10.000 B.C. to 1876 A.D* by Roggman, Arnold D. and Laverne E., Sutherland Printing Co, Montezuma Iowa, 1988

<sup>42</sup> [Iowa State Census Project](#)

1885 IA state census, Clayton, Mendon Twp

| CENSUS OF           |    | STATISTICS OF POPULATION & INDUSTRY |    |                                    |    |                |    |         |    |         |    | TOWNSHIP |  |
|---------------------|----|-------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|----|----------------|----|---------|----|---------|----|----------|--|
| Census of           |    | 1885                                |    |                                    |    |                |    |         |    |         |    | Mendon   |  |
| NAME OF EACH PERSON |    | RESIDENCE                           |    | PROFESSION, OCCUPATION OR INDUSTRY |    | PLACE OF BIRTH |    | FREEDOM |    | REMARKS |    |          |  |
| A                   | B  | C                                   | D  | E                                  | F  | G              | H  | I       | J  | K       | L  |          |  |
| Robert Cooley       | 30 | SE. M.                              | 37 | 37                                 | 37 | 37             | 37 | 37      | 37 | 37      | 37 |          |  |
| Elizabeth           | 30 | SE. M.                              | 37 | 37                                 | 37 | 37             | 37 | 37      | 37 | 37      | 37 |          |  |
| Boston              | 30 | SE. M.                              | 37 | 37                                 | 37 | 37             | 37 | 37      | 37 | 37      | 37 |          |  |
| Boston              | 30 | SE. M.                              | 37 | 37                                 | 37 | 37             | 37 | 37      | 37 | 37      | 37 |          |  |
| Diamond             | 30 | SE. M.                              | 37 | 37                                 | 37 | 37             | 37 | 37      | 37 | 37      | 37 |          |  |

<sup>43</sup> [1890 Census burnt](#)

<sup>44</sup> Not much is known about what happened to the 1890 census records between 1922 and 1932, but in December 1932, the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Census sent the Librarian of Congress a list of documents deemed no longer necessary and scheduled for destruction. Included in the list were the 1890 damaged census records. The Librarian approved the list and forwarded it to Congress who authorized it and the damaged records were destroyed.

[1890 Census destroyed](#)

45 1880 Non-Population Census, Mendon Twp, Clayton County, Iowa

46 Iowa, U.S., Records of Persons Subject to Military Duty, 1862-1910. This series began during the Civil War to identify all men in Iowa between the ages of 18 and 44. The lists were compiled annually by the local tax assessor who listed the men in his area. The records in this series are arranged by year and county then further subdivided into local jurisdiction (city or township).

47 A connection to the Ambrose Owen family has not been established but Ambrose did have a daughter named Etta

48 Their fourth child, Glenn Syren, was born in 1894

49 *Flagler News* (Colorado), Vol 5, #50 (3 Jan 1918)

50 Greatly exaggerated, Peter wasn't helpless

51 Three miles south of Garnavillo Village

52 Warren Cooley's obituary for his father, Andrew Sutherland Cooley

53 It is not known whether Anna Gladden was still with the family in 1872. In the 1880 census, Anna was a servant in the Francis Cook family of Farmersburg Clayton County Iowa. She was then going by "Estella" Gladden, probably her middle name. In 1882 she was married to Justus Warren Thorp in McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa.

54 Old Garnavillo Cemetery, Garnavillo Village, Clayton County, Iowa



55 8 Feb 1871, Invalid, application nr 163060; certificate nr 114926

<sup>56</sup> \*From the *Flagler News* Vol 5, #50 (3 Jan 1918): "For three years (Robert Reed Cooley) took care of a helpless brother who was wounded in the Civil War"

<sup>57</sup> Mendon Twp borders on the Mississippi River and is north of Garnavillo Twp in Clayton County.



<sup>58</sup> In an obituary written by Stephen W Cooley for his father, Andrew Sutherland Cooley, it is stated "[In Garnavillo] they made their home until 1872, when the old homestead was sold and another farm purchased in Mendon township near McGregor, which was their home until 1883, since which time they have resided [back in Garnavillo] with their daughter, Mrs. Fred Cook" (Clara Cooley b. 1848, d. 1941).

<sup>59</sup> State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; Iowa, Armed Forces Grave Registrations, ca 1835-1998.

[FamilySearch Database 17 October 2017](#)

<sup>60</sup> *The Flagler (Colorado) News* Vol. V, No. 50, 3 Jan 1918, p. 4., col. 3 Will A. Borland, ed

<sup>61</sup> *United States Census of Agriculture 1950 – Volume V, Part VI; A Special Report*

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.iowadatabase.org/datatables/UnitedStates/urusstpop19002000.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> Gleaned from many sources by ChatGPT

<sup>64</sup> A list of names has been prepared by District Court of Pierce County from which a petit jury will be drawn for the February 1893 term...R.R. Cooley... *Plainview Gazette*, Thursday, January 26th 1893, p5

<sup>65</sup> World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 The Generations Network Inc, 2005

<sup>66</sup> *Plainview News*, Friday February 9th 1900 p5

<sup>67</sup> *Plainview Republican*: Thursday, November 8th, 1906

<sup>68</sup> *Plainview News* Thursday, December 31st, 1908 p5

<sup>69</sup> *Plainview News*, Thursday, October 28th 1909, p1

<sup>70</sup> *Plainview News*, Thursday, January 20th 1910, p8

<sup>71</sup> *Plainview News*, Thursday, January 27th 1910, p5

<sup>72</sup> *Plainview News* Thursday, February 24th, 1910

<sup>73</sup> [About the Homestead Act of 1862](#) this endnote could be better

<sup>74</sup> [http://republicanriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRCA\\_AreasOfInterest.png](http://republicanriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/RRCA_AreasOfInterest.png)

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.uncovercolorado.com/activities/arikaree-river/>

<sup>76</sup> This brief history of Flagler was taken from a collage of newspaper anecdotes and recollections written by non-historians thus dates and other details sometimes conflict. I could not find a published history of Flagler <https://kccarchives.cvlcollections.org/files/original/16/415/Flagler.pdf>

<sup>77</sup> It is quite likely the Bowser site didn't have the necessary aquifer for a well

<sup>78</sup> Guide to Colorado Newspapers 1859-1963, compiled by Donale E Oehlerts, Colorado State University, 1964

[https://history.denverlibrary.org/sites/history/files/doc\\_2017\\_1868.pdf](https://history.denverlibrary.org/sites/history/files/doc_2017_1868.pdf)

<sup>79</sup> Henry Alden, 53, (sixth in line of descent of John and Priscilla Alden of Mayflower fame) and Sumner Kemp, 21 arrived in the area in late June 1854 where he purchased 20 acres for \$125 to use as a location for a saw mill. In 1856 Henry and others laid out what eventually became the Town of Alden. Later the township also took his name. The town was incorporated in 1879. The first post office was established in 1855. The first schoolhouse in Alden was built in 1856. In 1868 the Iowa Falls and Sioux City Railroad was completed to Alden. The Chicago, Iowa, and Dakota Railroad (now the Chicago Northwestern) came to Alden in 1884. – Wikipedia and Town of Alden website

<sup>80</sup> McHenry County was formed in 1836 out of Cook and LaSalle counties. The county was named for Major William McHenry, a member of the Illinois Militia during Tecumseh's War and a major during the Blackhawk War of 1832. Originally, McHenry County stretched east to Lake Michigan. It was reduced to its current size in 1839 by the creation of Lake County, Illinois. Currently, McHenry County is one of the five collar counties of the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Metropolitan Statistical Area. Collar counties is a colloquialism for DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties, the five counties of Illinois that border Cook County home of Chicago. Lake County on the north is not included in the collar counties. - Wikipedia

<sup>81</sup> Chittenden County was named for Vermont's first governor Thomas Chittenden who was one of the framers of its constitution as an independent republic and later U.S. state. Currently it is the state's most populous county, and Burlington, the county seat, is the state's most populous city. - Wikipedia

<sup>82</sup> Waitsfield is a town (township in other states) in Washington County, Vermont was created by a Vermont charter on February 25, 1782, and was granted to militia Generals Benjamin Wait, Roger Enos and others. The town is located in the valley of the Mad River, between the main range of the Green Mountains to the west and the Northfield Mountains to the east. - Wikipedia

<sup>83</sup> Washington County was eventually created from land ceded by the state of New York on 15 Jan 1777 when Vermont declared itself to be a distinct state from New York. The county was originally established as Jefferson County in 1810 from parts of Caledonia County, Chittenden County, and Orange County and organized the following year. In 1814 it was renamed to Washington County after the Federalists took control of the Vermont Legislature from the Jeffersonians. Vermont which conducted significant trade with British Canada had suffered particularly by passage of the Embargo Act of 1807 during the Jefferson administration. - Wikipedia

<sup>84</sup> Ralph Dornfeld Owen, *Descendants of John Owen of Connecticut (1622-1699): A Genealogy* (Philadelphia, 1941)

<sup>85</sup> Kent, C.L and Simon, Stephen E.; *The Founders of Windsor Connecticut/Ancestral head of Windsor's first families*

<sup>86</sup> OpenAI

<sup>87</sup> [https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3539](https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3539)

<sup>88</sup> <https://newn.cam.ac.uk/about/history/womens-education/>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.gale.com/primary-sources/womens-studies/collections/womens-education>

<sup>90</sup> *Flagler News*, vol 8, nr 22, June 17, 1920 (front page story, also on front page: Harding and Coolidge nominated at the Republican National Convention).