Noah Cooley b. 2 Jul 1782, d. after 1850
Jane Sutherland b. 24 Aug 1787, d. before 1850

Written by Daniel Berton Cooley 11th generation New England Cooleys
Noah and Jane's third great-grandson

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The Cooley antecedents of the 11th generation author, Daniel Berton$_{11}$ Cooley b. 1939 are: Clifford Coyne$_{10}$, Robert Berton$_{9}$, Robert Reed$_{8,}$ Andrew$_{7}$, Noah$_{6}$, Benjamin$_{5}$, Benjamin$_{4}$, Benjamin$_{3}$, Daniel$_{2,}$ and Ensign Benjamin$_{1}$.

Preface

My fascination with Noah Cooley's history began with a single, lingering phrase preserved through oral tradition. In 1968, my grandmother, Lou Miller-Cooley, relaying the words of my second great-grandfather Andrew Sutherland Cooley, Noah and Jane's eldest son, recalled: *"They lived 13 miles from Niagara Falls and never saw them."* I grabbed a compass, placed it on a Niagara County map centered 13 miles from the Falls, and watched the point land squarely on Lot 54 on Ridge Road, near present Streeter's Corners.

Of course, finding out who "they" were required stepping into a maze that has long represented the ultimate genealogical brick wall in my line. Tracing back eleven generations to our immigrant forefather, Ensign Benjamin Cooley (1615–1686) of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, nearly every family branch yields structured closure. Yet of all those ancestors, Noah Cooley and his wife Jane Sutherland stand virtually alone: they have no documented death dates and no documented death places.

For decades, published secondary sources and thousands of unsourced Ancestry.com trees have perpetuated exact death dates for Noah and Jane. These dates trace back to mid-20th-century compilations that draw heavily from early LDS church databases like the IGI and Ancestral File, or unverified claims in A.M. Caverly's *History of Pittsford* and Mortimer Cooley's *Cooley Genealogy*. Caverly placed Noah's death on January 11, 1852, in Lockport, New York, while other traditions stretch it to 1856. But when you strip away the guesses and examine the primary records, the trail fractures. The 1850 U.S. Census unexpectedly finds an aging Noah back in Pittsford, Vermont, living in the household of his incapacitated brother Azariah, while Jane has vanished from the record entirely, having likely died in Lenawee County, Michigan, before the summer of 1849.

This biography does not offer tidy, fabricated conclusions where the archives are blank. Instead, it confronts the gaps head-on, addressing several persistent roadblocks right at the outset:

- **The Fourth Child Contradiction:** For years, historical accounts following A.M. Caverly listed a "James G. Cooley" born around 1810 as Noah and Jane's fourth child. However, a family manuscript (*Memorandum of the Age*) alongside Michigan death records proves that Jane Eliza Cooley (born October 11, 1811) filled that place. Land records from Pittsford ultimately reveal that James G. Cooley was likely the son of Noah's elder brother Azariah, though he remains temporarily indexed among Noah's children due to archival overlap.
- **The Two Noah Cooleys of Michigan:** A widespread error across online databases is the wholesale conflation of our subject, Noah Cooley-I (born 1782), with his nephew Noah Cooley-II (born 1801), son of Samuel Cooley and Polly Dike, who settled permanently in Macomb County, Michigan. Numerous Ancestry databases have the birth date of my Noah Cooley, 1782, and the death date of Noah Cooley-II, 10 Apr 1877.
- **The Phantom Middle Name:** Countless family trees assign the middle name "Beach" to Noah 1782. Primary records reveal no middle name; the moniker strictly belonged to an infant son, Noah Beach Cooley, who was born in Cambria in 1819 and survived for less than a year.

History on the American frontier was rarely neat, and the paper trail left by families caught in the credit-fueled machinery of the Holland Land Company is often defined as much by its silences as by its deeds. By combining land ledgers, court files, contemporary journals, and family correspondence, this narrative retraces the steps of Noah and Jane from the independent Republic of Vermont to the ridge roads of Western New York, and finally into the timbered clearings of Michigan, tracking a lifetime of migration, economic struggle, and systemic historical erasure without pretending to know what cannot be proven.

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Noah Cooley and Jane Sutherland Family

Noah Cooley b. 2 Jul 1782 in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Republic of Vermont,[1] d. aft 1850,[2] bur. unknown; m. 24 Jan 1804 in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Vermont,[3] **Jane Sutherland** b. 24 Aug 1787 in Sutherland Falls, Rutland Co, Republic of Vermont,[4] d. est. Jul 1845-Jul 1849[5] probably in Seneca Twp, Lenawee County, Michigan; bur. unknown.[6]

Children

i. **Andrew Sutherland Cooley** b. 11 Jul 1804 in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Vermont;[7] d. 28 Oct 1890 in Garnavillo Twp, Clayton Co, Iowa;[8] bur. Old Garnavillo Cemetery, Clayton Co, Iowa;[9] m. 10 Mar 1825 Salome Warren in Lockport Twp, Niagara Co, New York;[10] she was b. 26 Jul 1809 in Ashfield, Hampshire (later Franklin) Co,[11] Mass; d. 2 Nov 1895 in Elkader, Clayton Co, Iowa;[12] bur. Old Garnavillo Cemetery, Clayton Co, Iowa.[13]

ii. **Samuel Thurman Cooley** b. 30 Mar 1806 in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Vermont;[14] d. 4 Jan 1892 in Jonesville, Hillsdale Co, Michigan;[15] bur. 6 Jan 1892 Goodrich Cemetery, Hillsdale Co,[16] Michigan; m(1) 3 Feb 1831, Oakland County, Michigan Electa F. Woodruff,[17] b. abt Jul 1806 in New York,[18] d. 5 Apr 1843 In Pittsford, Hillsdale Co, Michigan[19], bur. Goodrich Cem, Hillsdale Co, Michigan;[20] m(2) abt 1844 in Pittsford, Hillsdale Co, Michigan,[21] Lydia Carter b. 10 Sep 1814 in New York,[22] d. 19 Nov 1887, bur. Goodrich Cemetery, Hillsdale Co, Michigan.[23] Please see Appendix 4 (gravestone analysis) and Appendix 5 (location map) for burial details. Samuel was born 20 months, 19 days after Andrew was born.

iii. **Caleb Carroll Cooley** b. 25 Mar 1808 in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Vermont,[24] d. 25 Jun 1878 in Hudson, Lenawee County, Michigan,[25] bur. Maple Grove Cemetery, Hudson, Lenawee Co, Michigan;[26] m. abt 1840 in Lenawee County, Michigan,[27] Phebe Aldrich b. 19 Jun 1819 in Vermont,[28] d. 13 Jun 1906 in Jonesville, Hillsdale Co, Michigan,[29] bur. Maple Grove Cemetery, Hudson, Lenawee Co, Michigan.[30] Please see Appendix 5 for cemetery location. Caleb was born 23 months, 25 days after Samuel was born.

Fourth child error. James G. Cooley is listed in an appendix of *The History of Pittsford* and the *Cooley Genealogy* page 548 as the fourth child of Noah and Jane born 1810 which may be an error. Their fourth child was Jane Eliza, proven by her Michigan death certificate. James G. was possibly the child of Noah's elder brother, Azariah Cooley and his wife, Lydia Huntley though he is not listed as their child in the *Cooley Genealogy*.[31] However, the large gap of 42 months between Caleb and Jane could well accommodate an early 1810 birth.

iv. **Jane Eliza Cooley** b. 11 Oct 1811 in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Vermont;[32] d. 10 Oct 1871 in Seneca, Lenawee Co, Michigan;[33] bur. Oak Grove Cemetery, Morenci, Seneca Twp, Lenawee Co, Michigan;[34] m. abt 1834 in Newfane Twp, Niagara Co, New York[35] Arnold Hix Coomer b. abt 1810 in Pompey, Onondaga Co, New York;[36] d. 21 Oct 1883 in Seneca, Lenawee Co,[37] Michigan; bur. Oak Grove Cemetery, Morenci, Seneca Twp, Lenawee Co, Michigan.[38] Jane was born 42 months, 16 days after Caleb was born.

v. **Milton Potter Cooley** b. 6 Apr 1818 in Cambria, Niagara Co, New York;[39] d. 21 Aug 1894 in Burr Oak, St Joseph Co, Michigan;[40] bur. unknown; m(1). Mary J Grover b. est 1811, d. ?[41]; m(2). 9 Nov 1890 in Sturgis, St Joseph Co, Michigan,[42] Charlotte Rolfe Hass[43] b. 16 Aug 1823;[44] d. 22 Mar 1898,[45] bur. probably Michigan. Milton was born 77 months, 26 days after Jane.

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vi. **Noah Beach Cooley** b. 14 Nov 1819 in Cambria, Niagara Co, New York, d. 7 Sep 1820 in Cambria Twp, Niagara Co, New York.[46] Noah Beach was born 19 months, 8 days after Milton.

vii. **Mary Isabel Cooley** b. 21 Feb 1823 in Cambria, Niagara Co, New York;[47] d. 1 Nov 1851 in Farmington Twp, Oakland Co, Michigan;[48] bur. North Farmington Cemetery, Oakland Co, Michigan;[49] m. 21 Feb 1847 in Pittsford, Hillsdale Co, Michigan,[50] Benjamin Goff Coomer b. 27 Feb 1822 in Middlesex, Ontario Co, New York, [51] d. 9 Mar 1896 in Northville, Wayne Co, Michigan,[52] bur. North Farmington Cemetery, Oakland Co, Michigan.[53] Mary was born 39 months, 7 days after Noah Beach.

viii. **Benjamin Franklin Cooley**[54] b. abt 1825[55] in probably Cambria, New York (1850 census)[56], Residence in 1860[57]. Marriage, children, death, and burial all unknown. With an estimated birth date of 30 Jun 1825 Benjamin was born about 28 months after Mary.

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Noah Cooley - 2 July 1782 to after 1850

Benjamin and Gideon Cooley founded Pittsford

Before delving into the life of Noah Cooley, it is worthwhile to begin with his father, Benjamin$_5$ Cooley, his uncle Gideon Cooley, and the early settlement of Pittsford, Vermont.

Benjamin$_5$ Cooley was born 30 Apr 1747[58] in a place that later became Greenwich, Hampshire County, Province of Massachusetts Bay.[59] He was the son of Benjamin$_4$ Cooley (1702–1790) and his second wife Mary Needham (1725–1799). His half-brother, Gideon Cooley, was born 30 Jan 1730/31 in Brimfield, Hampshire County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, to Benjamin$_4$ Cooley and his first wife Elizabeth Charles (1711-1743).[60] Gideon, an adventurous spirit who had traveled through the Lake Champlain region during the French & Indian War (1754-1763), was 16 years Benjamin's senior.

In 1766, Gideon scouted lands in the New Hampshire Grants, a contested frontier between Lake Champlain on the west and the Connecticut River on the east, that was claimed by both New Hampshire and New York. (see Appendix 1 Map of New Hampshire Grants). In the central part of this disputed region near the Falls on Otter Creek (later Sutherland Falls), Gideon secured settlement rights from Captain Ephraim Doolittle[61] in exchange for a promise to clear and improve the land.[62] In 1767, Gideon age 36 persuaded his younger brother Benjamin$_5$ age 20 to join him. The two men rode on horseback from Greenwich, Massachusetts, carrying only essential tools and provisions. That summer they constructed a crude log cabin in what is now southern Pittsford, just north of modern-day Proctor, surviving on game, fish, and the first fruits of their labor.[63]

After wintering back in Greenwich in 1768, the brothers returned in 1769 to formalize their claim. By that autumn, having fulfilled their obligation to clear land, each received a deed from Captain Doolittle under New York authority.[64] Gideon's parcel encompassed the right originally granted by Benning Wentworth to Robert Crawford, and Benjamin's included 100 acres from the same Wentworth grant to Daniel Boyden.[65] Though the area had originally been granted by New Hampshire, the deeds described the land as lying in the County of Albany, Province of New York.[66]

Benjamin$_5$ and Ruth Beach were married in 1773[67] in Pittsford (then part of New York's Charlotte County) where they established themselves on Post Road (present Elm Street) and raised 10 children.[68]



Benjamin$_5$ Cooley's second house after first one burned down around 1800. This picture was taken in 1935, Florence Miller Cooley is one of the women. The covered porch is a later addition

During the Revolutionary War, Benjamin$_5$ served as a Patriot militiaman.[69] On May 10th 1775 he was a participant in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga[70] led by Ethan Allen leader of the Green Mountain Boys and Benedict Arnold of the Continental Army. The capture was the first offensive victory for American forces in the Revolutionary War.[71]

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Pittsford, where Noah was born in 1782, was eventually incorporated into the Republic of Vermont,[72] which itself was not admitted into the United States until 4 March 1791. This backdrop of disputed jurisdiction, pioneering effort, and family enterprise frames the environment into which Noah Cooley was born and sets the stage for understanding Noah's early life and the legacy he inherited from his father and Uncle Gideon



Aerial view from the south of Pittsford village and environs

Noah in Pittsford Vermont

An accounting of Noah Cooley's life in Vermont is limited to a few sentences in the *History of Pittsford* by A.M. Caverly:

> Noah Cooley, son of Col. Benjamin, married Jane, daughter of Peter Sutherland, January 24, 1804, and located on the west side of Otter Creek, upon land now owned by Ransom Burdett. The house he occupied, built by him, stood on the east side of the old road leading from the residence of Tilly Walker to that of Peter Rice now R. Burdett's. The cellar of the house can still be seen in the pasture about thirty rods west of the railroad. Mr. Cooley resided there a few years and then removed to the Western Country [western New York present Niagara County]...[73]

United States Censuses 1790 and 1800

The first three censuses conducted by the United States government were the 1790, 1800, and 1810. In the first two, Noah was enumerated in the household of his father Benjamin5 Cooley. In the 1810 census he had established his own household.

1790 US Census

The 1790 census was the first decennial census conducted by the newly-formed United States of America, taking place just seven years after the nation secured its independence from Britain. The census was primarily intended to assess the nation's population for taxation and congressional representation, marking a crucial step in organizing the fledgling republic.

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This inaugural census, like the four that followed (through 1840), recorded the names of heads of households only, with all other household members categorized by age and sex. In the household of Benjamin$_5$ Cooley, the census recorded three males under 16 (Samuel, Azariah, and Noah), two males 16 and over (Benjamin$_5$ and Benjamin$_6$ Jr), and five females. However, genealogical records account for only four of these females: Ruth Beach (Benjamin$_5$'s wife), their daughters Ruth Jr., Mary, and Naomi.

See Appendix 6 for a complete analysis of the 1790 enumeration of the Benjamin$_5$ Cooley household.

1800 US Census

The 1800 census was the second national enumeration of the United States, conducted as the young republic entered its third presidential term under John Adams. While still limited to recording only the heads of households, this census refined its age brackets, offering a more detailed view of population distribution. By this time, the nation had grown to over 5 million people, and westward expansion was beginning to shape settlement patterns, especially in states like Vermont, where new farms and towns continued to emerge.

In the household of Benjamin$_5$ Cooley, the census recorded two males 16-25 (Azariah age 20 and Noah age 18), one male, 45-and-over (Benjamin$_5$ age 53), three females under 10 (Eunice age 9, Dorothy age 6 and an unknown girl under 10 years of age), two females 10-15 (Mary age 14 and Naomi age 11), and one female 26-44 (Ruth Beach age 44). See Appendix 7.

Noah Cooley establishes a family in Pittsford

Shortly after the turn of the century, Noah was married to Jane Sutherland 24 Jan 1804.[74] Noah and Jane bought land below and west of the low ridge (now Elm Street) on which Benjamin$_5$ Cooley-Ruth Beach home stood. The **United States Census of 1810** for Pittsford, Rutland, Vermont recorded three males 10 and under: Andrew Sutherland Cooley, age 6, Samuel Thurman age 4, and Caleb Carroll age 2; one male of 26 under 45: Noah age 28; and just one female of 26 and under 45. The eldest female in the family was obviously Jane Sutherland but she was just 22 or 23 depending on the enumeration date. It is concluded she was miscategorized.[75]

The family was actually enumerated twice: once in Pittsford and once in Rutland. For details see the analyses in Appendix 8.

Western Country

As the second decade of the 19th century dawned, Noah Cooley and Jane Sutherland were still in Pittsford, Vermont, building a young family and tending his farm. There is one item that anchors Noah to Pittsford at this time and that was a notice of a strayed or stolen horse dated July 10, 1813 for the return of which there awaited a generous reward.[76] But the pull of opportunity beyond the Green Mountains toward the promised land of western New York, where the Beaches and Sutherlands had already settled, was growing stronger with each passing year.

This "Western Country" as it was then known in New England had recently shifted from contested territory between Massachusetts and New York to an emerging frontier (see Appendix 9). It had been Native land, dominated by the Six Nations and later overseen by British garrisons until their withdrawal in 1796. Yet even before treaties were signed and surveys completed, a wave of daring Vermonters had already begun trickling westward, led not by speculation alone but by firsthand experience.

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New York in 1788. Notice Pittsford, then in Washington County, New York

Chief among those pathfinders was Noah's uncle, Philip Beach, a determined frontiersman who had explored these wilderness routes on foot as a mail carrier during the late 1790s.[77] Beach's early settlement in Cambria, the Welsh-named frontier of western Genesee County, about 1802, created a powerful gravitational center for family migration. As we trace the decade prior to 1810, we find in Philip Beach's footsteps the probable path and motivation that would later inspire Noah Cooley's own journey into the woods of Western New York.

Philip Beach Pathfinder of Ridge Road

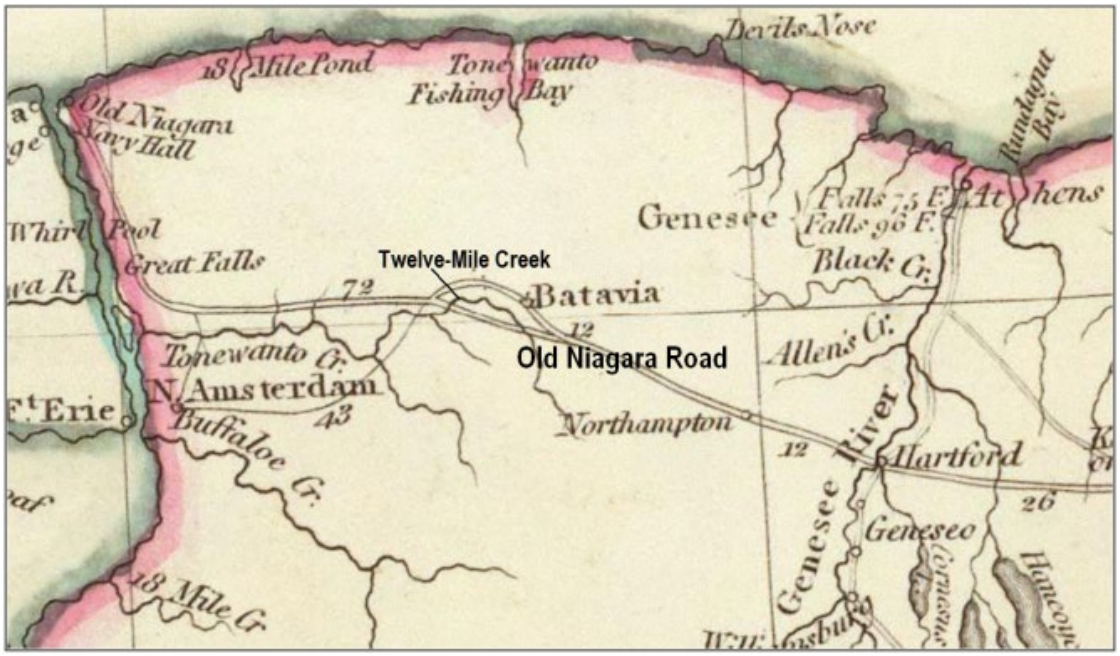
At the close of the 18th century, the frontier west of the Genesee River was in flux. See Appendix 12 Evolution of New York Counties. Though the Holland Land Company had secured title to some 3.3 million acres through deeds from Robert Morris in 1792 and 1793, the land remained largely unsettled for at least a decade. Not only that, British forces still occupied territory near the Niagara River, and it wasn't until 1796, following the Jay Treaty,[78] that they withdrew from Fort Niagara and surrounding posts.[79]

The region was finally open to American settlers, yet for several years afterward, ownership and administration were murky. Robert Morris's agents, including figures such as Daniel Ganson and Hezekiah Hosmer, manage the land during this uncertain period, granting informal rights, leasing parcels, and hiring men to open communication routes.

It was in this setting that Philip Beach, the youngest son of Gershom Beach Jr. and Mary Salter, and younger brother of Ruth Beach (Noah Cooley's mother),[80] made his first mark on the wilderness.[81] Around 1799–1800 Philip was employed by Ganson and Hosmer as a frontier courier, carrying mail along ancient Native American trails from Batavia to the Landing (modern Lewiston) and on north to Fort Niagara at Lake Ontario, all still part of Ontario County at that time.[82]

His route often traced the East Branch of Twelve-Mile Creek, a landmark that would figure prominently in his later life when his trail would form the backbone of what became known as the Old Niagara Road (today's Ridge Road, Route 104). This rugged experience gave Philip a unique familiarity with the land: its soil, timber, water sources, and geography.[83]

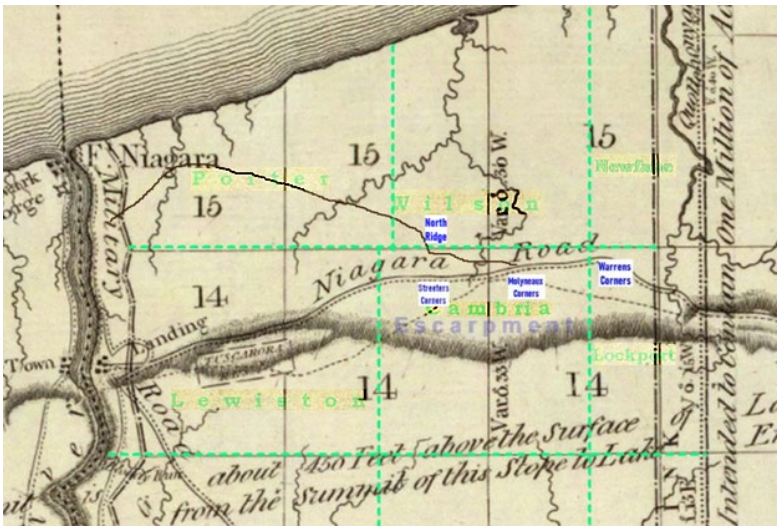
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1802 map showing 12-Mile Creek and Old Niagara Road in future Niagara County

About 1801 or 1802 Philip briefly returned to Vermont then moved his family to the fertile land along Twelve-Mile Creek. When Philip arrived, before his chosen lot had been properly surveyed, Joseph Ellicott, the Holland Land Company's administrator, supposedly told him to "stick a stake", promising to regularize the claim later. This was a testament to Philip's standing as a trusted and respected pathfinder. There he constructed a log cabin and later sold it to Joseph Hewitt and relocated eastward.[84]

Formal land sales by the Holland Land Company began in 1801, chiefly in the southern reaches of the Purchase in an area that would become Erie County in 1821. Just three years later on 21 April 1804, Philip secured clear title to property in Lot 18, Township 14, Range 9[85] in what is now the Town of Lewiston somewhat west of the eventual nucleus of Beach, Sutherland, and Cooley properties centered on Molyneaux Corners. Interestingly, although Philip had been in the area for some four or five years, his elder brother, John, made the family's first Holland Land Company purchase in 1803 a mile or two east of military lands along the Niagara River.



Niagara County showing the Holland Land Company's townships with present Towns superimposed in green

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On 23 November 1808, Philip expanded his holdings by acquiring land in Lot 31, Township 14, Range 7 at Molyneaux Corners.[86] It was property fronting on Ridge Road that would eventually come under Sutherland ownership that lasted 120 years through three generations.

Philip's and John's homesteading was a signal fire to others back east that the land was good, the risks manageable, and the future tangible. They did not remain isolated. Soon other settlers arrived, and Philip's holdings became a nucleus for community development.

The log cabin Philip built later passed through the hands of Joseph Hewitt to William Howell, whose name became associated with Howell's Creek and Howell's Tavern, an early center of community life on Ridge Road. Philip remained in Niagara County until his death on 1 May 1840, age 68, and is buried in the Molyneaux Corners Cemetery.[87]

The Beach Brothers: Building a Kinship Frontier

Aaron and Jesse Beach soon followed and together the Beach brothers formed one of the earliest familial enclaves in Cambria. The brothers and their father, Gershom Jr, had previously settled in Scottsville (founded 1789), just south of present Rochester (founded 1803). Scottsville was named for Vermont native Isaac Scott, the father-in-law of Jesse Beach. That earlier migration from Vermont to Ontario County laid the foundation for this more ambitious westward push. See Appendix 10 for overland routes taken by New England settlers.

Jesse Beach, born in 1768,[88] arrived in mid-1812 with his wife Lovina Scott and their children. On 12 November 1812, he secured property in Lot 47, Township 14, Range 7[89], immediately east of Noah Cooley's Lot 54 and near what became Streeter's Corners in 1876. Their son, Cyrus Beach, is remembered as the first white child born in nearby Dickersonville, roughly eight miles east of Lewiston on Highway 104.[90]

While a Jesse Beach is listed as a lieutenant in the 25th U.S. Infantry during the War of 1812, there is no firm evidence connecting that officer to our Jesse Beach who settled in Niagara County.

In the British destructive incursion along Ridge Road during the War of 1812 Jesse Beach's farm was mostly spared. From *Niagara Frontier and the War of 1812*: "Jesse Beach; Loss trifling; circumstances and residence unknown".[91]

Jesse died young, 5 Dec 1815 age 47[92] during Noah Cooley's first year in Cambria. His son Cyrus, who figures prominently in *History of Niagara County, N.Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery...and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents,* assumed control of the farm. Jesse's wife Lovina survived him by 43 years, dying 29 Aug 1858.[93]



Beach, Cooley, and Sutherland settlement locations

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Aaron Beach, born about 1761 in New Jersey,[94] carried deep scars of war. A veteran of the Vermont militia during the American Revolution, he had been captured by the British and held in Montreal for over a year. He first explored the Ontario County region in New York in the early 1790s with Isaac Scott but returned to Vermont. By 1811, he was back, settling near North Ridge Road, close to what is now the Daniels Road intersection.[95] During the War of 1812, he temporarily fled to Vermont following British and Native raids in December 1813 but returned alone to defend his claim. His family rejoined him after the war. Although his name is absent from Karen Livsey's *Western New York Land Transactions*, his presence is well-attested.[96]

Aaron Beach's home on North Ridge Road may have been burned by the British during the War of 1812. From *Niagara Frontier and the War of 1812:* "Aaron Beach; speculator, presumed not in want".[97]

Aaron Beach died 17 Jun 1846 age 85 and his wife Rachel died 13 Mar 1840 age 79.[98]

John Beach, born about 1766,[99] was the first of the brothers to buy Holland Land Purchase property, acquiring land on 23 August 1803 in Lot 41, Township 14, Range 9.[100] This parcel lay in what is now the western part of Lewiston near the Niagara River, some distance west of the Beach enclave on Ridge Road. His marriage to Mary "Polly" Cushman united two long-established Vermont families.

During the War of 1812 John's farm near the Niagara River was burned by the British but he had sent his family eastward out of harm's way. From *Niagara Frontier and the War of 1812*: "John Beach; house etc. burnt; not in want; family in Ontario [County NY]".[101]

From Trailblazers to Settlers: The Ridge Road Takes Shape

Together, the four Beach brothers carved out a community along Ridge and North Ridge Roads. What had once been a mail trail blazed by Philip Beach became a corridor of farms, orchards, and log homes. The Beach–Sutherland–Cooley enclave that would emerge here after the War of 1812 found its anchor in Philip's early presence, but it was solidified by his brothers' shared toil and kinship.

Niagara County was formally organized in 1808 in which the Town of Cambria was coterminous with the county. Its first town meeting took place at the log cabin originally built by Philip Beach, then owned by Joseph Hewitt. Among its first civic acts was posting a $5 bounty for wolf pelts and ears, a reminder that the land, though surveyed by Joseph Ellicott of the Holland Land Company, remained wild. Yet by the time Noah Cooley arrived in 1815, the path had been cleared, both literally and figuratively, by the Beach brothers and their kin.

Andrew Sutherland: Early Settler of Ridge Road

Marriage and Early Family Life

Andrew Sutherland Sr[102] was married to Naomi Cooley 6 Jan 1807 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont.[103] Naomi, sister of Noah Cooley, was born 6 Oct 1788 in Pittsford to Col Benjamin Cooley and Ruth Beach.[104] Like many frontier families of the period, they were mobile and prepared to leave the structured agrarian society of New England in search of opportunity in Western Country.

Yet Andrew does not appear in the 1810 federal census, not in Vermont, not in New York, nor in any neighboring state under plausible spelling variants such as Southerland. This absence likely reflects his early movement into the unsettled western frontier. He may have been living in temporary conditions, perhaps boarding with another settler or squatting on unclaimed land, not yet qualifying as the "head of household" that census takers were instructed to list. Note that his uncle-in-law Jesse Beach was enumerated in Cambria in the 1810 Census.

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A Frontier at War: The War of 1812

Andrew Sutherland's westward journey brought him, by 1810 or 1811,[105] to the rich farmlands of Western New York that had just become Cambria, Niagara County in 1808 and just as the region was on the verge of becoming a war zone.

On 3 March 1812, he officially entered the Holland Land Company system by making an original purchase of a parcel on Lot 48, Township 14, Range 7[106] located between present Ridge and North Ridge Roads where they separate at present Molyneaux Corners. This acquisition came mere months before the outbreak of the War of 1812, and just over a year before the most harrowing chapter in Niagara frontier history: the retaliatory raids of December 1813 by the British army.

That winter, after the American army needlessly and cruelly burned Newark (modern-day Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario), British forces crossed the river, captured Fort Niagara, and launched a series of revenge attacks on settlements stretching south along the river. Lewiston, Manchester, and Tuscarora were torched. The entire region was thrown into panic. British regulars, accompanied by Native allies, looted and burned homes to the ground. See Appendix 11 *The Ravages of War: Targeting Civilians in the Anglo-American Conflict*.

Sutherland's homestead on Lot 48, positioned along this corridor northwest of Molyneaux Corners, was spared from direct destruction, the raids having stopped just west of their farm.[107] However, proximity to the raids meant the threat was real. Many settlers fled back to Vermont or Pennsylvania. For Andrew and Naomi, however, return was no easy option. With winter roads impassable and the frontier boiling with hostility, retracing their path would have been perilous. The decision to stay required both courage and resolve. It also likely required enlistment.

A service card from the New York Adjutant General's index lists an "Andrew Southerland" as a private in Colonel Elisha Colt's 42nd Regiment of New York Militia.[108] This regiment was raised from local companies to defend the Niagara frontier during precisely the years Andrew Sutherland resided at Lot 48. The name match, age, and location are all consistent.

Foothold on the Frontier: Holland Land Company Lot 48

Sutherland's acquisition of a parcel on Lot 48 in 1812 appears to mark his first formal stake in Niagara County, but it likely followed informal settlement. Many early pioneers, including those encouraged by Joseph Ellicott, the Holland Company's chief agent, squatted on land before formal purchase. They cleared timber, built cabins, planted small plots, and were later offered first rights when the parcels were officially sold. Sutherland was likely following this pattern.

Although Lot 48 would not remain in the Sutherland family, its significance lies in its timing and location. It provided a strategic base along Ridge Road during a chaotic period. The record also shows a renewed or modified contract in 1830, suggesting Andrew continued payments or sought to update terms, even after shifting focus to Lot 31 on the south side of Ridge Road about a mile west.

Peripheral Holdings: Lot 23

On 24 November 1818, just one day before securing his long-term home, Andrew Sutherland entered into an agreement for a parcel on Lot 23.[109] There is no record of construction or extended habitation there. More likely, this was an opportunistic acquisition, perhaps for timber, pasture, or short-term utility as it was adjacent to Lot 31. Like many settlers, Andrew may have seen land as both shelter and capital, adapting to circumstance and reshuffling claims as needs and fortunes changed.

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Permanent Settlement: Lot 31 (1818–1836)

Andrew Sutherland made his final and lasting home on Lot 31, Township 14, Range 7, acquiring it on 25 November 1818 through a reversion to the Holland Land Company and the issuance of a new article. This stabilized a parcel with a tangled paper trail. The lot had first been articled by Philip Beach on 23 November 1808.[110] Over the next decade, various parties, including Azariah Stoughton, Andrew Norton, and Charles Grant, made partial payments or defaulted. Sutherland's 1818 agreement effectively reset the title.

This was no speculative purchase. Andrew built a working farm. He cleared fields, raised crops, and, like many pioneers, operated an ashery,[111] converting hardwood ashes into potash, a vital commodity for soap and glass. He and Naomi raised eight children on this land, including Fletcher Sutherland, who would later inherit and maintain the farm.

In 1830, Andrew appears again in the Holland Land Company records under their modified sale program further affirming his long-term occupation and commitment to the property.[112] He died of apoplexy on 28 Feb 1836[113] and was buried on the farm. Later, his remains were reinterred in Glenwood Cemetery in Lockport.[114]

Andrew Jr recorded his father's demise in his journal as follows:

> My father died of apoplexy of which he was attacked a little before daylight in the morning. It was, in the evening before, apparently as well as ever sat reading at the table some new books lately purchased in Lockport. He retired late in the evening after looking after the horses, etc. in the barn as usual. As the night was well-nigh passed he complained of a pain in his head and he rose to stir up the fire and fell upon the floor. My mother helped him up onto the bed, and he enquired for me, who was sleeping in a room adjoining. I was the oldest boy at home. I arose and saddled the horse and went for the physician as soon as I could. Dr. Shaw who came pronounced it apoplexy. He lingered until early evening and died.

Parcels in Lot 31 fronting on Ridge Road remained in the Sutherland family for many generations, a legacy of his persistence, courage, and adaptability.

Fletcher Sutherland and the Seven Sutherland Sisters: Spectacle on the Ridge

Fletcher Sutherland was a controversial figure. Born in 1818 in Cambria, he was ordained as a Methodist minister and served parishes throughout Western New York, including Caledonia, Port Cambria, Lyons, North Ridge, and Cambria. Yet by most accounts, including those of family researchers, his pious role masked a manipulative nature. He was estranged from his family and, in later years, his conduct as both father and preacher had drawn justified scrutiny.[115]

Fletcher and his wife, Mary, raised seven daughters and a son, Charles, on the Lot 31 homestead, then still a humble log farmhouse. The girls came of age in the mid-19th century and by then they were well-known for their musical ability, singing and playing the piano, and they had performed in far-flung places already.

It was in the 1870s that they were marketed as the *Seven Sutherland Sisters* by their father, Fletcher. They captivated national audiences with claims of magical hair growth remedies and performances featuring singing and their floor-length hair. The family made a fortune in the 1880s and 1890s, hawking "hair grower" tonics and joining the likes of P.T. Barnum's circus and performing in New York City.[116]

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The Seven Sutherland Sisters and their floor-length hair posing with their dad, Fletcher (seated)

In 1892, flush with earnings, the Sisters constructed a mansion on the old family farm, placing it prominently on Ridge Road (present 4936-4946). Their home was part Victorian showpiece, part self-promotional museum, filled with artifacts, clothing, and testimonials to their peculiar fame. The family's visibility attracted not just attention, but myth-making, some of which obscured the land's quiet century of agrarian history.



Seven Sutherland Sisters' mansion on Ridge Road[117]

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Today a modern brick house sits on the original foundation of the mansion at 4946 Ridge Road.



Present 4946 Ridge Road where a modern brick house sits atop the old 7SS mansion foundation.

Fletcher died in 1888 and the glory years faded. The sisters' wealth dissipated, some say squandered. By 1932, the house had been sold to Cecil C. Carpenter of Lockport, who later reported discovering many trunks of Seven Sisters memorabilia stored in the attic. The mansion tragically burned to the ground on 24 January 1938, and with it, much of the tangible legacy of the Sisters.[118]

Yet the historical thread holds. From Andrew's re-articling in 1818 to the mansion fire in 1938, the two front parcels of Lot 31 remained continuously in Sutherland hands. Whatever one may think of Fletcher or his daughters, the Ridge Road homestead endured for 120 years as a quiet witness to hard labor, domestic drama, showmanship, and eventual decline.

But not all stories on Ridge Road began with grandeur or ended in fire.

From War to Settlement: Western New York on the Cusp of Change (1812–1818)

At the turn of the 19th century, the Holland Land Company (HLC) launched one of the most ambitious land-development schemes in American history, the Holland Land Purchase (HLP).[119] Having acquired title to over three million acres in Western New York through financier Robert Morris, the Dutch syndicate dispatched Joseph Ellicott to survey and administer what was then a vast wilderness between the Genesee River and the Niagara frontier. Ellicott, methodical, visionary, and autocratic, envisioned a model frontier society built not by speculators, but by hard-working settlers in a three-tiered system: first squatters to clear timber and signal habitation; then "pioneers" willing to build homes and farms on credit; and finally capitalized farmers who would pay in full and anchor the land in permanence.[120] This layered approach aimed to convert a howling wilderness into a patchwork of prosperous farms, market towns, and interlinked roadways, all without the chaos of unchecked speculation.

For a time, the experiment seemed to work. By 1810, thousands of articles had been signed, sawmills and gristmills had been reserved on key waterways, and the flow of settlers increased along Ellicott's roads, especially Ridge Road, which traversed the fertile band of land between the Niagara Escarpment on the south (See Appendix 13) and Lake Ontario on the north. The Holland Company offered generous terms: little down, decades to pay, and no immediate eviction. The gamble was that value would accrue with every new settler and payments, even if delayed, would one day flood in. What looked like leniency was in fact a calculated investment in the long-term transformation of the interior. But the model depended on continued peace, economic optimism, and steady migration.

Then came war. The War of 1812 brought ruinous reversals to Western New York. British and Indigenous raids disrupted transport and terrified settlers; Buffalo was burned to the ground in December 1813; and the

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Holland Company's fragile ecosystem of trust, credit, and progress collapsed almost overnight. Development halted. Payments ceased. Even squatters grew scarce. Joseph Ellicott, already overburdened and defensive, saw his vision reduced to delinquent IOUs and frozen accounts. The Dutch Company's Philadelphia office, led by the cautious Paolo Busti, grew increasingly impatient with frequent letters of nervous conservatism addressed to Ellicott whose authority, once unchallenged across a vast dominion, was beginning to erode.

With the Treaty of Ghent signed in December 1814 and ratified by Congress in February 1815, the frontier stirred again.[121] Roads became passable, markets reopened, and rumors of opportunity again reached New England, especially Vermont. But the world to which these new settlers arrived, among them Noah Cooley of Pittsford, Vermont, was no longer the carefully plotted landscape Ellicott had imagined. The Holland Land Company, desperate to show revenue, began offloading marginal parcels, relaxing standards, and courting settlers who a decade earlier might not have qualified. Instead of a vision fulfilled, the Company entered a kind of managed retreat. Ellicott's tiered model had cracked. In its place came a more desperate improvisation: take what you can get, while you still can get it.[122]

Ridge Road Reopens

For settlers heading west from Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, places long saturated with rocky fields and inheritance bottlenecks, Western New York beckoned again. Old Native trails like Ridge Road (Old Niagara Road) were gradually widened into settler highways and North Ridge Road was blazed from Molyneaux Corners through Ransomville to Youngstown. Taverns re-appeared at crossroads. Land was advertised as "improved" if a few stumps had been pulled or a cabin had once stood.

Hamlets began to emerge: Wright's Corners, Warren's Corners, Molyneaux Corners, places that would soon host rudimentary churches, schools, and general stores. But behind this forward motion, the system that had birthed it was unraveling. The Company still sold land on speculation, backed not by bank notes but by a settler's willingness to work: the axe, the hoe, and a signed promise-to-pay served as collateral.

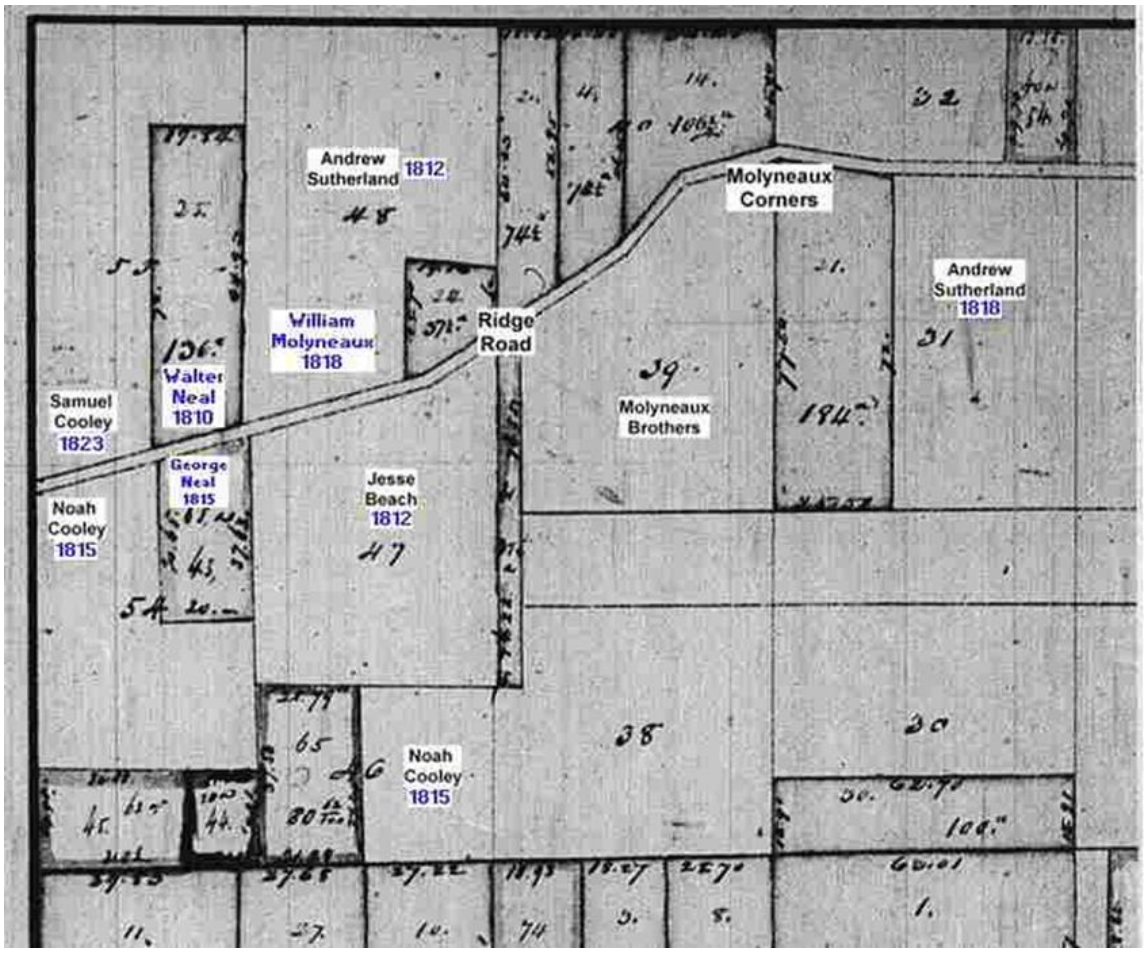
The land would pay for itself, Ellicott had argued for years, but the war had exposed the flaw in that logic: when crops failed or markets closed, the land stopped paying. Compound interest continued to accrue, even as settlers defaulted or walked away.[123]

Enter Noah Cooley: A Man in the Middle Phase, the Pioneer

Into this charged and crumbling landscape arrived Noah Cooley, neither the first to blaze the trail nor the last to profit from it. He left Pittsford, in the spring of 1815 with his wife Jane Sutherland and their young children, Andrew, Samuel, Caleb, and Jane Eliza. The Holland Land Purchase still looked like a grand opportunity. He was not a squatter, but neither was he wealthy. He was precisely the kind of man the Company now relied upon: a serious, hardworking settler who could be trusted to improve his land, raise crops, and eventually make payments, or so it was hoped.

The family settled about a mile west of where Jane's extended Sutherland family and Noah's Beach kin had already established roots. Unlike John and Philip Beach, who had made early purchases in 1803 and 1804, or Jesse Beach and Andrew Sutherland, who arrived in 1812 and were drawn into the war effort, Noah came at a moment when land was again available, but the system had lost its coherence. He was entering during the second phase of Ellicott's grand design, the pioneer-buyer stage, but just as the scaffolding of that vision was beginning to collapse.

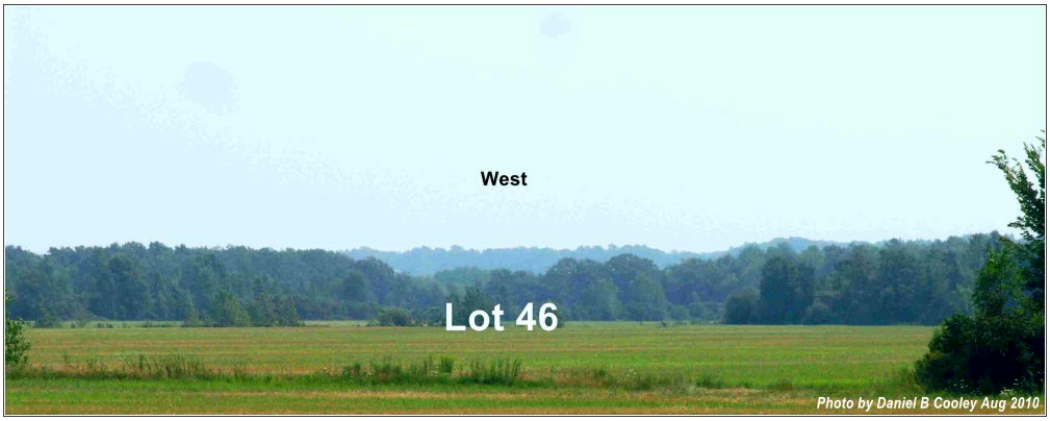
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Original Holland Land Company Map of the Molyneaux Corners area
where the Beaches, Sutherlands, Neals and Cooleys settled.[124]

Noah makes a perplexing first purchase, Lot 46

Noah's first Holland Land Purchase transaction came on 8 May 1815: an Original purchase of a parcel of 181 acres[125] in the "eastern part" of Lot 46, Township 14, Range 7. It lay landlocked south of Ridge Road with no major road access and no known improvements at the time. It bordered Jesse Beach's Lot 47 on the south but lacked the strategic value of frontage or cleared acreage. Even in 2010, Lot 46 felt remote, a tract only partially cultivated on its eastern half (now accessed by Green Road), while the western portion still appeared to be a forest-covered back lot.



Lot 46 in 2010 looking west from Green Road

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The financial terms reveal just how thin a margin Noah was operating on, even at the outset:

- Purchase Price: $724
- Down Payment: $36 (5%)
- Residue Deferred: $688[126]

Why Noah chose this isolated parcel remains unclear. Perhaps Jesse Beach steered him there. Perhaps it was George Neal, who became active in the region at the same time as Noah. Though there's no record of a joint purchase, the two may have coordinated their entries. Or perhaps the Company offered the lot cheaply as part of a desperate push to monetize unused land. With only $36 down, he entered on the Holland Land Company's most fragile terms. These weren't installment plans; they were wagers. The Holland Land Company, under Ellicott's control, had long treated settlers like Noah as transitional figures: not expected to remain forever, only to build enough value for others to follow.

This was not unusual for 1815. After the War of 1812, hundreds of such "purchases" were issued as placeholders, thinly capitalized, and easily rescinded. Noah probably believed he had secured a foothold but the Company, operating under a different calculus, had not sold permanence. They had sold the chance to try.

Just one week later, on 15 May 1815, George Neal purchased a small parcel in the neighboring tract to the west, Lot 54, also an original sale. George would later be married to Noah's niece, Asenath Cooley, daughter of Samuel Cooley Sr. Though not yet family by marriage, the near-simultaneity of their entries suggests a close association or shared intent.

The Neal family, especially George's father Walter Neal, had already established themselves in the region: Walter's entries in Lot 55 date to 1810 and reflect early, sustained engagement with the Holland Land Company's evolving credit schemes. George's alignment with Noah in 1815, and Noah's later purchase in Lot 54 that October, placed Noah within a broader kinship network of experienced landholders. This reinforces the interpretation that his entry into Cambria was not a random frontier plunge, but part of a coordinated family settlement strategy.

Lot 54: A stronger position—or the same trap?

Within five months, Noah made a second, more telling move. On 20 October 1815[127], he purchased 164 acres in the western part of Lot 54, widely separated from his purchase in the eastern part of Lot 46. This new tract in Lot 54 was better situated: it bordered Ridge Road to the north, lay closer to the heart of the Beach–Sutherland-Neal settlement, and was likely already partially improved. No record survives of who began clearing Lot 54, but it's reasonable to suspect an earlier squatter, or even kin, had done the initial work.

The financial terms here were steeper, though still lenient:

- Purchase Price: $984
- Down Payment: $97 (just under 10%)
- Residue Deferred: $887, likely with compound interest[128]

Compared with Lot 46, the higher down payment suggests Lot 54 was considered more desirable and carried stronger Company expectations of improvement with the understanding that sweat equity would "pay" the rest. Axes and hoes functioned as collateral, but the Company retained the right to repossess land if improvements lagged or payments ceased. When settlers defaulted, the Company reclaimed the partially or fully cleared land, now more valuable, and resold it to the next buyer.

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West part of Lot 54 looking north from southern parcel boundary; growing corn in 2010

Noah's payment suggests he entered precisely under this deferred-improvement system, thinking, as many pioneers did, his labor would eventually pay off. It is possible he had already begun improving this future tract in Lot 54, after the purchase in Lot 46, under Ellicott's informal "go-ahead" policy, in which settlers were allowed to start clearing without formal title.

A System in Decline

By 1816, Ellicott was under siege. Settlers were defaulting in droves. Revenues evaporated. The war had made enforcement impossible. Busti, writing frantically from Philadelphia, demanded income for his superiors in Holland. Ellicott, unable to collect, offered land at lower and lower thresholds, granting ever more lenient credit, and pressing every farmer and laborer into the role of a would-be buyer.

On 12 October 1816, Noah Cooley, along with James Allen, made a third Original purchase: 171 acres in Lot 75, Township 15, Range 7, in the Town of Wilson, farther north and well outside the Ridge Road enclave. The terms of this purchase are even more telling:

- Purchase Price: $855
- Down Payment: $42 (5%)
- Residue Deferred: $813[129]



Lot 75 looking northwest from Willow Road, Wilson Town

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If Lot 46 showed Noah entering on a shoestring, Lot 75 demonstrated that Ellicott was now willing to extend such terms almost indiscriminately. Noah's name appears on the original purchase for Lot 75 and a subsequent undated reversion. No other record links him to any further activity there. In 2010 that area of Wilson was semi-cleared and cultivated.

Together, the three purchases form a consistent pattern, not a steady progression into danger, but a beginning, middle, and end all marked by the same fragility. Noah's tenure under the Holland Land Company was precarious from the outset and becoming untenable well before 1820.

Collapse and Uncertainty: Ellicott Falls, Records Go Silent

Meanwhile, Joseph Ellicott came undone. Under pressure from lawsuits, mounting delinquencies, and the fading confidence of the Dutch investors, he suffered what his contemporaries called a "nervous collapse". By 1821, he was forced from office, relieved of duty in disgrace and emotional ruin. The Holland Land Company cut ties. Ellicott, once the architect of Western New York's ambitious settlement grid, withdrew from public life, increasingly isolated and depressed. He died five years later, likely by his own hand.[130]

The idealistic, three-tiered system he had championed, squatters to clear the land, pioneers to improve it, and capitalized owners to secure permanent settlement, had buckled under the weight of war disruptions, mass default, and overextended speculation. The experiment did not end overnight, but it had lost direction. In time, the Company would resort to administrative salvage: revised payment structures, modified sales (formally introduced in 1827), and the slow, grinding effort to resell reverted parcels. But the Ellicott era was over. The vision of a booming agrarian economy in Western New York had collapsed.[131]

By 1823, Noah Cooley held several parcels within the Holland Land Purchase, chief among them, a tract in Lot 54 in Cambria, a tract in Lot 46, also in Cambria, and Lot 75 in Wilson. Yet despite years of settlement, improvement, and probable cultivation, not a single one had converted to deed. His name surfaces in the land records for Lot 54 most clearly in October of 1815 but after that, the trail begins to dim. *Western New York Land Transactions 1804-1824* (Livsey) shows no renewed articles or new contracts under his name, not in 1818, not in 1820, and not in 1823, when many settlers were renegotiating under the Holland Company's revised terms. What Livsey does show is a Reversion against the original 1815 article for Lot 54 but with no date entered. The forfeiture could have occurred as early as 1823 or as late as the late-1820s; the ledger simply does not say. What it confirms is that Noah's hold on Lot 54 was not merely weakening during these years; it was, at some point, severed.

Then, in 1831, Noah reappears in the record with his nephew Samuel Jr. under the Modified Sale program attempting to renegotiate the former contract in Lot 54. Noah and Samuel Jr were not watching a forfeiture be recorded; they were attempting to buy back land the Company had already reclaimed. The reversion was behind them.

That renegotiation raises its own question: Where had Noah been? The 1830 census locates him not in Cambria or Wilson but in Newfane, several miles to the northeast and outside the original Cooley–Beach–Sutherland enclave. By the time the enumerator found him, Noah was no longer a landholding settler. The undated reversion on Lot 54 had already done its work. His geographical shift to Newfane, whether driven by economic necessity, family proximity, or the simple need to be somewhere other than the land he had lost, suggests a man repositioning himself with fewer and fewer options. That he returned to the Holland Land Company ledger one last time in 1831, jointly with Samuel Jr., speaks less to opportunity than to desperation. The reversion was a fact. The Modified Sale appears to have been a long shot. And when it failed, there was nothing left in Niagara County to hold him.

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The Unknown Benjamin Cooley of Lot 54

The Cooley family's entanglement with Lot 54 did not end with Noah. A puzzling renewal listing dated 6 September 1823, compiled well after Joseph Ellicott's departure, names a "Benjamin Cooley" in connection with that same tract.[132] For a time, this entry raised the possibility of another branch of the family pursuing a claim there. But closer analysis has rendered those early assumptions untenable.

Said Benjamin cannot be Samuel Cooley Sr's son Benjamin 7th (b. 1811) who was just 12 years old at the time nor is it likely to be the elder brother of Noah and Samuel, Benjamin 6th (b. 1774), who remained rooted on the Cooley Farm in Pittsford, Vermont until his death in 1838.[133]

While a coincidence involving an unrelated Benjamin Cooley is theoretically possible, such as the Benjamin Cooley residing in Township 6, Range 1[134] much farther south and east in present Erie County but still in the Purchase area, it is highly improbable. The surname remained uncommon in the region, and the Cooley–Beach–Sutherland cluster in Cambria was tight-knit and well-defined. A more plausible explanation is the name entered the HLP records through a multilateral obligation, an undocumented note, or clerical carryover related to some internal arrangement among the extended kinship group. That possibility cannot be confirmed, but it better fits the social and transactional landscape of the time.

What can be confirmed is this: by 1831, only two Cooleys remain visible in Lot 54's formal record, Noah and his nephew Samuel Jr. (b. 1804),[135] both appearing with renegotiation code[136] listings under the Company's Modified Sale program. Their presence in those listings, absent any accompanying deeds, likely marks the final unwinding of the Cooley foothold in that section of Niagara County.

Samuel Cooley Sr and the Collapse of Lot 55

Just across Ridge Road from Noah's Lot 54, his elder brother Samuel Cooley attempted his own stake in the new frontier, a parcel in Lot 55, Township 14, Range 7. Samuel had likely arrived in Cambria by late 1815, having sold his property in Chittenden County, Vermont, the previous autumn. The timing places him either alongside or soon after Noah, part of a second wave of kin following the Beach–Sutherland migration.

While the soil of Lot 55 was rich and arable, the title to the tract proved elusive. The Livsey ledger records only two entries for Samuel Cooley: a Renewed article (Code W), dated 21 August 1823[137] and a Reversion (Code R) marked that very same day.[138] These terse notations are all that survive of what was likely a multi-year attempt at landholding, marked by uncertainty, sweat equity, and bureaucratic frustration.

His selection of Lot 55, next door to Noah's, suggests a deliberate family strategy: shared labor, coordinated improvements, and mutual support in a still-rugged landscape. But where Noah Cooley appears in Holland Land Company records up to 1831 and in the 1820 and 1830 Niagara County censuses, Samuel appears in just the Niagara County 1820 census[139] and two HLP entries in 1823. There is no confirmation of his presence or land activity before 1820.

Samuel may have been operating under Ellicott's earlier assumptions, that labor and presence would eventually translate into legitimacy. He may have cleared acreage, raised a shelter, or planted crops in good faith. But by 1823, the Company had lost patience. The simultaneous appearance and disappearance of Samuel's name on the 21st of August suggests his renewal had lapsed immediately due to arrears, or was overridden by conflicting claims, or was outright rejected. The title to his part of Lot 55 had become entangled by late 1823.[140]

Indeed, Samuel was not alone. Between 1817 and 1826, at least four other men, Cranston Allen, Robert Waterhouse, Jonas Schoonover, and Abner Lay, entered articles or held interests in Lot 55. All failed except for Walter Neal and his son George, who had been successful with their land holdings and were making regular payments to the Company. Another original purchaser, Allen White, also defaulted or vanished with only one

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original purchase entry. At least part of Lot 55 had become a kind of reversion-prone orphan, passed from one hopeful to the next, only to fall repeatedly back into Company hands.

For Samuel and his family, the result was quiet failure. His brief record reads now like an epitaph for a lost chance. Whatever effort he made, whether substantial or tentative, came too late. He fades from Niagara County records thereafter, the entire family eventually resurfacing in Macomb County, Michigan, where newer, cheaper land and a different system awaited. The Samuel Cooley-Polly Dike family would prosper in the coming years in their new environment.[141]

Their son, Samuel Cooley Jr., would later reappear in ledger entries on both Lots 54 and 55 under the Modified Sale program of 1831 (Code D in Livsey).[142] Despite his last-ditch efforts, Samuel Jr would reappear in Macomb County the next year, living with his brother Jonathan.

That entire Molyneaux Corners cluster, including Charles and William Molyneaux,[143] had begun to unravel by the early-1820s. The Beaches, the Sutherlands, and the Neals held on but for the Cooleys, and others lacking capital or luck, the Holland Purchase offered no second chances.

The 1824 Quitclaim: Noah Cooley Settles Old Ties

In early 19th-century America, quitclaim deeds were a common tool used to settle unclear, undivided, or inherited property interests, especially within families. A quitclaim does not guarantee ownership; it simply means "If I have any right to this land, I now give it up." These deeds were often used to clear up dower rights, clarify estate divisions, or prevent future disputes. Payment was not always involved; many quitclaims were executed out of family obligation or to tidy up legal records. But when money did change hands, it often reflected a desire by one party to consolidate control and remove future uncertainty.[144]

On 1 January 1824, Noah Cooley returned to Pittsford, Vermont, and signed just such a deed.[145] In exchange for $200, paid to him by his elder brother Azariah who was occupying the Cooley family home on Post Road with his wife Lydia and children, he relinquished all claim to the dower lands set off to his mother, Ruth Beach, from the estate of their father, Col. Benjamin Cooley. He also preemptively waived any future interest in land "which may belong to my Brother Benjamin Cooley (Jr)," likely referencing property already set off to his older brother as part of the 1816 estate division. The deed was witnessed by Caleb Hendee and Mary H. Shooner, and entered into the town records the same day. The tone of the transaction suggests that Azariah, then managing family affairs in Pittsford, wanted to formalize Noah's exit, possibly to ensure clean title and prevent future entanglements with a brother whose financial situation was increasingly unstable in New York.

Although this was not Noah's final return to Vermont (he would reappear in Pittsford again in the 1850 census) it was his last recorded legal act in his hometown during his working years. Coming just months after his Niagara County lands began reverting back to the Holland Land Company, the quitclaim looks less like a routine estate housekeeping and more like a strategic severance: Noah needed cash, Azariah needed clarity, and both parties used the familiar form of the quitclaim deed to bring about that resolution.

No Deed, No Heirs, No Options: The Purchases That Didn't Hold

Ill-advised outlying purchases fall first

After 1823, Noah Cooley's name falls silent in the Holland Land Company records for nearly a decade. The gap does not mark his departure from Niagara County; it marks the moment he slipped from formal standing. Like many smallholders caught in the Company's post-Ellicott retrenchment, Noah remained on the land but outside the paperwork; he was farming without the security of an active contract.

The second Livsey volume (Western New York Land Transactions 1825-1835) shows how that limbo ended for two of his outlying lots. He and James Allen had articled Lot 75 on 12 Oct 1816 in Wilson; both names later

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appear as reversions, confirming the parcel's return to the Company, although the actual dates of the reversions are not known.[146] A new contract for Lot 75 was then issued to Jesse Smith on 1 Mar 1833.[147]

Lot 46 unraveled sooner: while Noah's own reversion is not recorded, John Gould and John McDole renewed its articles on 3 Jan 1828 as new buyers, effectively superseding Noah's claim.[148] The absence of a recorded reversion for Noah on Lot 46 is not anomalous for this period. In the chaotic administrative aftermath of Ellicott's removal, the Company frequently issued new articles to incoming buyers without formally closing out lapsed ones, particularly when the original settler had simply ceased payment and vacated without filing notice of surrender. Noah had no legal obligation to formally relinquish his claim; silence and absence were often enough. Augustus Dodge's subsequent relinquishment of Lot 46 on 20 Jan 1832 shows the continued turnover that followed.

Noah Cooley's Home Ground

Noah's parcel in the western part of Lot 54, his home ground and his strongest holding, followed a more complicated path. His article on that parcel, first purchased in October 1815, is marked as a reversion in the second Livsey volume, though the actual date is unrecorded; it fell somewhere between 1823 and 1831.

George Neal, who had purchased a parcel in the eastern part of Lot 54 five months before Noah's original entry in October of 1815, continued making payments and remained in good stead with the Company. In 1828, William Scott and John Gould entered renegotiated contracts on other parcels within the lot, suggesting the Company was actively reselling reverted portions even as some holders like Neal remained current.

The Company had not been idle in the interim. Reversions and reissued contracts appear throughout the mid-1820s under the post-Ellicott agents, but the 1828 entries on Lot 54 likely reflect the newly formalized Modified Sale program which gave the administration a systematic mechanism for clearing delinquent parcels rather than handling them case by case. The fate of the western part of Lot 54, whether it reverted in one piece or was subdivided among incoming buyers, cannot be determined from the Livsey volumes alone. The original Holland Land Company records at SUNY Reed Library in Fredonia New York would be required to untangle it.

Noah's final years in the Enclave

Together, the records for all three lots demonstrate that by the late 1820s Noah had lost contractual control of every parcel he had articled, an outcome that aligns with his recorded presence in Newfane by 1830 and foreshadows his eventual move to Michigan.

Noah probably remained on Lot 54 for several years after 1823, even without a valid article. He had family nearby, his brother Samuel and sons to the north, Cyrus Beach, son of Jesse, next door to the east on Ridge Road, and the Sutherlands farther east, and he may have continued occupying the land even after his article became void. This was a common reality in the late Ellicott period: improved land often went unclaimed for years after default, while the Company debated whether to resell or wait. Their appearance may have been the trigger that finally dislodged Noah from the land he had cleared and farmed for over a decade.

In these silent years, life continued. Two more children were born to Noah and Jane in Cambria, Mary Isabel on 21 Feb 1823,[149] and Benjamin Franklin about 1825.[150] That same year, their eldest son, Andrew Sutherland Cooley, was married to Salome Warren in Lockport.[151] By 1830 Andrew and his bride had relocated to Oakland County, Michigan Territory along with his brother Samuel[152] and probably Caleb who then resided with his brother Samuel. The migration of the next generation had begun and with that, Noah had lost his only heirs of working age.

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A Retreat in Plain Sight: Why Newfane?
The Noah Cooley Family moves out of Cambria

At some point between 1825 and 1830, Noah left Cambria for Newfane, and the land records suggest the later end of that range is more probable. The appearance of new buyers on Lot 46 in early 1828, as described above, implies Noah had already ceased to occupy or defend that claim, pointing to a departure no later than early 1828. No deed or contract explains the move. There is no record of property acquisition in Newfane, nor of any formal departure from Cambria. What prompted the shift is uncertain but the geography itself suggests continuity rather than rupture. Newfane lies northeast of Cambria, just catty-corner across Warrens Corners, close enough to maintain his family connections, far enough to leave the forfeited lots behind.

The relocation was likely informal, a rental, a kin-based arrangement, or simple tenancy on unrecorded land. The 1830 federal census confirms his presence there, listed as head of a household that included his wife Jane and three children: Milton Potter (age 12), Mary Isabel (age 7), and Benjamin F. (age 5).[153]

Yet the proximity of Newfane to Cambria raises a question that the record cannot fully answer. It was not the bold westward leap that his sons had already made. Rather, it was a sidestep; a retreat in place. Noah had spent 13 years trying to secure a permanent footing in Cambria, and he had failed. The Beaches, the Sutherlands, and the Neals had held on; the Cooleys had not. To remain in Cambria among neighbors who had succeeded where he had not may have been socially untenable. Newfane may have offered proximity without the daily reminder of his forfeited lots visible down Ridge Road. And so the Newfane years, roughly 1828 to 1832, became a liminal passage for Noah. He was no longer a landowner in Cambria but not yet ready or able to follow his sons to Michigan. Jane was still with him. The younger children were still at home. He was waiting, perhaps for the 1831 renegotiation to succeed, perhaps for resources to accumulate, perhaps simply for the resolve to make the final leap west at the age of fifty.

The Coomer Connection, Such As It Is
Coomer Family in Newfane

The Coomer family, into which two of Noah's daughters would eventually marry, arrived in Western New York by the same well-worn corridor that brought half of New England to the Holland Purchase. Benjamin Coomer Sr., born 8 Mar 1747/48 in Providence, Rhode Island,[154] and his wife Ruth Goff, born 14 Aug 1748 in Rehoboth, Mass,[155] raised their family in Berkshire County Massachusetts then removed about 1800 to Stanford, Dutchess County, New York. In 1810 they were enumerated in Pompey, Onondaga County, New York the same staging ground that funneled the Beaches through Scottsville and launched a generation of Yankees toward the Holland Land Company's grid.[156]

Benjamin Sr. did not linger. He came to what was then the eastern part of the Town of Wilson. While he never dealt directly with the Holland Land Company, his early presence left a lasting mark. He cut through his own property one of the first interior roads in Wilson, later known as Coomer Road. It connected Lake Road, about a half mile south of the Lake Ontario shoreline, southward to Ridge Road, one mile east of Warrens Corners. He even lent his name to a now-vanished post office.[157]

Benjamin Sr died 26 Oct 1817, well before the eastern part of the Town of Wilson was taken to erect the new Town of Newfane in 1824. He is buried at West Lake Road Cemetery, Olcott, Newfane, Niagara County.[158]

The two youngest children of Benjamin Sr and Ruth were twin sons: David and Jonathan born 8 Apr 1787.[159] They migrated with the family to New York but took divergent paths out of Onondaga County. Jonathan settled in the Town of Newfane and, despite early land reversions on tracts in Lots 17 and 28,[160] he had established himself as a secure landholder in Lot 38 by 1834.[161] In contrast, his brother David headed west to Oakland County, Michigan, arriving by 1830, about the same time as the Cooley brothers.

David's son Arnold Hix Coomer, born in Pompey, Onondaga County 19 Feb 1810, was married to Noah's daughter Jane Eliza about 1834 in Newfane;[162] they eventually settled in Seneca Township, Lenawee County,

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Michigan. David's other son, Benjamin Goff Coomer, would later marry Noah's daughter Mary Isabel 21 Feb 1847 in Hillsdale County, Michigan.[163] The kinship web was tightening, just as Noah's prospects were thinning.

The Hail Mary on Lot 54

The Holland Land Company's Modified Sale Program

With Ellicott gone, the Company's long-standing tolerance for settlers in arrears evaporated. By 1825, the Erie Canal had opened, redirecting commerce and speculation to the water route. Cambria, while not remote, was no longer strategic. The Company's land agents were replaced by bookkeepers. By 1827, the Modified Sale program was underway, allowing the Company to reclaim reverted lands and resell them for cash, often to outsiders. There was no effort to recoup improvement value nor to offer reentry under equitable terms. Settlers like Noah were not pursued; they were simply discarded. To remain, they had to buy anew at cash value. Noah, whether unwilling or unable to participate, remained outside this new economy. He made no appearance in the program's early phases.

That changed, briefly, in January 1831. Noah Cooley's name surfaces once more in the Holland Land Company records, this time jointly with his nephew Samuel Jr. They attempted to renegotiate a contract for Lot 54, the land Noah had first articled in October 1815, cleared, farmed, and lived on for the better part of fifteen years. Whether this represented an effort to reclaim forfeited land, to legalize continued occupancy, or simply to resolve title is unclear. It was, in any case, a last-ditch attempt to recover something from a system that had already moved on. The renegotiation failed. Samuel Jr. also appears independently in a renegotiation for Lot 55, the very parcel his father Samuel Sr. had forfeited in 1823. That effort also failed.

The poignancy of that January 1831 entry is difficult to overstate. Noah's three eldest sons had already gone to Oakland County, Michigan. His eldest daughter Jane Eliza would soon leave for Michigan with Arnold Hix Coomer. He had no adult heirs left in Niagara County. His brother Samuel Sr. and most of that family had gone to Macomb County, leaving only Samuel Jr. behind to pick up the pieces with his uncle Noah. When that last effort collapsed, the decision was made for them both. Samuel Jr. was in Macomb County by 1832. By 1833, Noah Cooley had reappeared in the Toledo Strip of Michigan.

The Cooley brothers, Noah and Samuel, sons of Col Benjamin Cooley and Ruth Beach had vanished from Niagara within seventeen years of their arrival.

Cooley Migration: The Michigan Phase

From Ridge Road to Bean Creek

When Noah Cooley left Niagara County in the early 1830s he entered a Michigan frontier burdened by a long-standing poor reputation. For nearly a generation the interior had been dismissed as swampy, unhealthy, and agriculturally worthless, a view shaped largely by the 1815–1816 survey of U.S. Surveyor General and former governor of Ohio, Edward Tiffin, whose "Tiffin Report" emphasized marshes and inferior soil across much of the southern part of what is now called the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.[164]

Later county histories paraphrasing the 1815–1816 survey attributed to Tiffin a dramatic assertion that scarcely one acre in a hundred, perhaps even one in a thousand, was fit for cultivation, a reflection of the bleak impression created by early field reports rather than a literal assessment.[165] Upon learning of those conditions Congress redirected most of the Michigan military bounty lands to Illinois and Missouri country, delaying migration to Michigan for years.[166]

During the mid-1820s the situation began to change as Michigan Territorial Governor Lewis Cass and other real estate promoters reported that beyond the marshy belt surrounding Detroit lay extensive dry uplands suitable for farming. As roads improved, settlers followed. Oakland County, created from Macomb in 1819, developed slowly at first but by the middle of the decade organized communities such as Bloomfield Township

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had taken root. Andrew S. Cooley appears in an Oakland County document by 1827. By 1830, the census establishes Andrew and Samuel there, with Caleb apparently residing in Samuel's household.

Meanwhile, a quiet but irreversible transformation was taking place across the region. Between the Treaty of Detroit (1807),[167] the Treaty of Fort Meigs (1817),[168] and finally the Indian Removal Act (1830),[169] nearly all Native American claims in southeastern Michigan and the Maumee Valley were extinguished by treaties, broken treaties, and coercion. Though residual presence and memory endured, the duplicity of the United States government had cleared the way for extensive white settlement.[170]

From Niagara to Lenawee, still together ten years later

In 1840 Noah Cooley was enumerated in the United States Census as head of household in Seneca Township, Lenawee County, Michigan[171] with the family of four comprising, Noah, age 57, Jane Sutherland, age 52, Mary Isabel (age 17), and Benjamin F (age 15). The family minus Milton Potter was the same as it was in 1830 in Newfane, Niagara County, just ten years older.

Noah's precise location in Seneca Township is not known but circumstantially he had moved on from early Toledo Strip holdings leaving behind contested claims and financial uncertainty for a more stable, if still modest, existence among his children: Jane Eliza Cooley and Arnold Coomer in Morenci, Caleb C. in Hudson, and Samuel T. in Pittsford, Hillsdale County, just four miles west of Hudson.

Michigan State Census of 1845

Five Years Later, Still There

The Michigan State Census of 1845 enumerated a family of five in Seneca Township. Milton Potter Cooley, age 27, had returned to the family fold, bringing the household back to the size it had been in Niagara County. The census also found them in distinguished company. Arnold Coomer and his small family appear on the same page, consecutive entries that placed father-in-law and son-in-law within shouting distance of each other in the township.[172]

Whether that proximity reflects shared farmstead boundaries or a family cluster on Coomer Street, now in northeast Morenci, is not known. What the census does establish, without ambiguity, is that Noah Cooley's household was still under one family roof as it was fifteen years earlier in Niagara County. The household had not dispersed, but an empty nest was soon to follow. Milton was actively purchasing land in 1846 and was married to Mary J. Grover probably about that year. Mary Isabel was married 21 Feb 1847 to Arnold Coomer's younger brother, Benjamin Goff Coomer,[173] in Pittsford, Hillsdale County whence the young couple removed to Farmington in Oakland County.

Jane Sutherland Cooley was still alive and enumerated with Noah in the 1845 Michigan State Census, but she appears neither in the 1850 federal census nor the Seneca Township mortality schedule (year preceding June 1850).[174] She died sometime in the interval between mid-1845 and mid-1849, almost certainly in the Morenci vicinity near her daughter Jane Eliza. No death record, gravestone, or obituary has been found.

By 1850 the household the census had found intact just five years earlier had completely dissolved. Milton Potter and Mary Isabel were married and gone. Benjamin Franklin, the youngest, had landed in the household of his elder brother Samuel Thurman Cooley in Pittsford, Hillsdale County.[175] Noah was alone and he had options. Samuel Thurman was in Pittsford. Caleb Carroll Cooley was established in Hudson. Jane Eliza and Arnold Coomer were right next door in Seneca Township. He chose none of them.

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Crisis in Pittsford on Post Road

Homecoming

By the summer of 1850, Noah Cooley, age 68, appears in a place geographically unexpected but socially understandable: back in Pittsford, Vermont, on Post Road in the homestead built by his father in 1802. He was recorded in the federal census in Dwelling No. 770, living with his elder brother Azariah Cooley, age 70, Azariah's wife Lydia, age 65, and their son Reuben, age 33, together with Reuben's wife Phebe and their six young children.[176] In the adjacent Dwelling No. 769 lived another cluster of relatives: James Cooley, age 21; Rebecca, age thirty-five; and three children, two of whom--Francis and Eveline Bickford--were likely Rebecca's from an earlier marriage. Emily A. Cooley, nine months old, was probably the child of James and Rebecca. Altogether, at least thirteen people occupied or adjoined the old Benjamin Cooley homestead[177]. Noah, who had quitclaimed his share of this very property to Azariah 26 years earlier, was now a dependent in a house he had once partly owned.

Jane Sutherland, who would have been 63, was absent not only from the household but from all known records. The 1845 Michigan State Census is her last documented appearance; by 1850 such a disappearance almost certainly indicates death, though neither location nor date has been discovered.

No deed, probate entry, or land record accompanies Noah's return to Vermont. The census recorded presence only, not purpose. At first glance one might suppose he had come east to assist his aging brother, but local probate records complicate that interpretation, and the family connections behind them make the scene more unsettling, not less.

During a 2016 examination of Pittsford town records, it was found that on 20 February 1850, Anthony C. Rice had been appointed guardian of Azariah Cooley by the Rutland District Probate Court. The court determined Azariah "insane" (incapable of managing his affairs) and his estate insufficient to pay debts and support the household[178]. Rice petitioned for authority to sell part of Azariah's real estate to raise 500 dollars. After notice and bond, with Denning Gorham as surety, the court granted the license on 8 May 1850.

Anthony C. Rice was not a stranger to the family. He was the son of Margaret Cooley and Peter Rice.[179] Margaret was a sister of Benjamin_5 Cooley, making Anthony a first cousin of both Noah and Azariah. He had grown up in the same Pittsford Cooley orbit, was buried in Meetinghouse Cemetery among them, and knew the property and the people intimately. The court did not reach outside the family for a neutral party; it reached one step sideways, to a kinsman close enough to understand the estate but not entangled in the household competing for its resources.

A striking feature of the court proceeding is who did not receive authority. Lydia, though wife and resident in the house, had no legal standing to act for her husband under prevailing law. Reuben, an adult son living on the property with his own family of eight, was a direct beneficiary of the estate and therefore precisely the kind of interested party probate courts sought to circumvent. Brother Noah is nowhere mentioned in the guardianship. Whatever his reason for being in Pittsford, it did not include legal responsibility for Azariah's care or estate. Instead, the decision placed both household and property under the supervision of a cousin whose authority derived from the court, not from the family.

A more ordinary explanation lies in the arc of the previous three decades. Noah had quitclaimed his Pittsford inheritance in 1824 for cash to sustain his move west. In Niagara County, three Holland Land Company lots reverted or were taken over by new buyers. In Michigan, two patents were secured but no lasting prosperity followed. Jane's disappearance from the record after 1845 removed the last anchor of Noah's independent household. By 1850 he owned no land anywhere, held no contract, and maintained no farm. His return to Pittsford resembles not a visit of assistance but a late-life retreat to the only kin network still standing--only to find that network itself under court-supervised liquidation, with his own first cousin holding the keys.

The suffocating intimacy of the Post Road scene deserves emphasis. The guardian was a cousin. The ward was a brother. The man farming the land was a nephew. The dependent with no legal standing was Noah

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himself. Everyone under that roof or authorized to sell it was a Cooley by blood or marriage. There were no outsiders in this story--only family members occupying different positions in a collapsing domestic economy. Noah's invisibility after August 1850 is not mysterious; it is structurally predictable. A man who had quitclaimed his property rights in 1824, who owned no taxable real estate, who held no guardianship role, and who was maintained as a dependent in a household whose finances were administered by the probate court had no mechanism by which to enter Vermont's documentary record. He would not appear on tax rolls, in town meeting minutes, or in land transactions. The silence is not a gap in the sources. It is the sources working exactly as designed for a person in his legal and economic position.

Azariah died on 5 Sep 1852 in Pittsford and is buried in Meetinghouse Cemetery.[180] Noah, however, vanishes from the record after the 1850 census. He is not buried in any indexed Pittsford cemetery despite numerous Cooley graves there, nor does he appear in subsequent town, probate, or land records. The house of his birth briefly received him again, but did not keep him.

If he returned seeking permanence, he did not remain. Whether he went back to Michigan, followed children farther west, or died in the Post Road house and was buried without a marker remains unknown. Since the Cooleys were prominent in Pittsford and occupied family plots in the various cemeteries, it is unlikely Noah would have been buried without a marker. His appearance in 1850 is therefore less a closing chapter than a final, momentary resurfacing, a man who re-entered the family home after a lifetime on the frontier, only to pass once more beyond the documentary record.

As court-appointed guardian, Anthony C. Rice was required to file annual accounts with the Rutland District Probate Court itemizing every expenditure from Azariah's estate. If Noah was being maintained from those funds, his name would appear as a line item for board, clothing, or medical care. If he died during the guardianship, funeral expenses would be recorded. Indeed, the guardian's accounts may survive, but they were not located for this biography; hence, the documentary record ends here.

Epilogue

The biography of Noah Cooley began in 1968 with a single remark from Grandma Lou Miller Cooley: "They lived 13 miles from Niagara Falls and never saw them." It is an arresting detail that in the 17 years they lived close enough to the falls to sometimes see a rainbow in that direction, Noah and Jane could never find one Sunday afternoon to travel that short distance to behold one of the natural wonders of North America. But it is also the most concise summary of their lives. They were not sightseers. They were settlers caught in a system that demanded every waking hour of labor merely to hold position, and that repaid the effort with forfeiture.

Noah Cooley's arc was not unusual for his generation. Thousands of New England men followed the same trajectory-- westward into a credit-fueled frontier only to be undone by financial structures that promised permanence but delivered only the chance to try, then scattered again toward the next survey line. What distinguishes Noah is not the outcome but the completeness of the record: we can trace the purchases he could not hold, the lots that reverted beneath him, the kinship web that pulled him from one frontier to the next, and the silence that finally closed over him. He belonged fully to each place he entered, yet to none permanently. The record closes without a known grave, but not without a life fully documented up to the moment it slips beyond reach.

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Jane Sutherland and the Sutherland Family

To write about Jane Sutherland is to write about the surname she carried and her relationship to her husband and children. The documentary record, mostly censuses, gives us very little more. No diary was kept, no independent account of her life was made, nothing that offers the least insight into it.

This was not peculiar to Jane. Women have always been given short shrift in genealogy, and the reason is built into the records themselves. Deeds, land patents, militia rolls, the census taken household by household under a man's name (head of household) -- all of it was drawn up around men. A wife enters as a name beside a marriage and leaves the same way, not because she did less but because no one thought to write her down. Jane is no exception.

So, what we can recover of her has to be deduced from the activities of the men around her: her great-grandfather, her grandfather, her father, and her husband. That deduction has to start where the American record starts -- a land purchase in Greenwich, Connecticut Colony in 1722 -- and work forward, four generations, to the woman this section is about. Jane was born into Peter Sutherland's household at the falls on Otter Creek in the independent republic of Vermont. It is their records, not hers, that tell us what that world was.

PART ONE: WILLIAM SUTHERLAND OF BANGALL (c. 1690-?)

Fact, Legend, and the 1722 Anchor

While 19th-century genealogical tradition frequently sought to anchor the American Sutherlands in the 17th century, linking them to the 1684 East New Jersey expeditions or the 1685 voyage of the *Henry and Francis*, such claims rest on traditional assumptions rather than primary proof. Since this biography is concerned with a man named William Sutherland, recent critical analyses, such as those by Mark Sutherland Fisher of the Sutherland Clan in Scotland, demonstrate that early compilers routinely conflated three separate Williams: a 1690s New York City shoemaker, a 1709 New Windsor patentee, and our ancestor, William of Bangall. In the tightly knit English Puritan settlements of Fairfield County, Connecticut, where Scottish immigrants were exceedingly rare, no contemporary paper trail exists for this family before the 1720s.

During the early decades of the 18th century in British North America, the northern colonies were stepping out of their 17th-century isolation. Benjamin Franklin, born in Boston in 1706, was a runaway teenage apprentice setting up his printing trade in Philadelphia, Queen Anne's War (War of Spanish Succession) had recently concluded, and Benjamin$_3$ Cooley, Noah's great grandfather, had become a proprietor of Brimfield, Province of Massachusetts Bay, a new town east of Springfield.

Along the northern side of Long Island Sound the coastal Connecticut frontier was shifting from wilderness outposts to permanent agricultural market towns and the newly established Collegiate School (soon to become Yale College) was taking root in New Haven. Into this expanding provincial world, William Sutherland made his first documented appearance, probably a recent arrival from New Jersey.

The Paper Trail Begins in Horseneck

For Jane Sutherland’s direct lineage, tradition meets documented history not on a 17th-century ship manifest but in the land records of Fairfield County, Connecticut Colony. On February 16th 1722 William Sutherland purchased a tract of land at Horseneck[181] in western Greenwich from Joseph Dickinson,[182] establishing the first verified primary anchor for this family in North America. Everything before that purchase, the exact Scottish birthplace, the ship, the details of his parentage, remains tradition and speculation.

In the early 18th century, "Horseneck" was not a separate town, but rather the sprawling western half of Greenwich. Named for a peninsula (now Field Point) set aside in 1672 as common horse pasture, Horseneck sat

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atop elevated, fertile farmland between the Mianus and Byram Rivers, situated along the direct trade corridor to New York City. While eastern Greenwich centered on the old coastal settlement, Horseneck grew into the town's primary agricultural hub. Tucked into the far southwestern corner of Fairfield County, it occupied a bustling, strategic borderland, a place where coastal shipping sloops along Long Island Sound met inland farm families expanding toward the rolling backcountry.

What is documented beyond the Horseneck purchase remains thin. William's son Roger bought land in northern Greenwich in 1740.[183] At some point William removed to Bangall, Great Nine Partners, a crossroads now in the northeast corner of Stanfordville, Dutchess County, New York.

The last sighting is a 1772 mortgage: "William Sutherland carpenter of Dutchess County" pledged 206 acres in Great Nine Partners to Mary Barclay.[184] Whether this is the same William or a son is uncertain. If the immigrant William was born around 1690, he would have been 82, still plausible for a man signing a mortgage but pushing the actuarial odds. The document establishes the family's trade (carpenter) and landholding (substantial) but nothing else.[185]

Great Nine Partners[186]

The name sounds like a business arrangement struck over a tavern table, and in a sense it was. The Nine Partners Patent of 1697, later called the Great Nine Partners to distinguish it from a smaller 1706 grant to the north named Little Nine Partners, was a speculative investment covering roughly 145,000 acres across central Dutchess County, stretching all the way from the Hudson River to the Connecticut border. The nine original investors, prominent New York merchants and officials who had mostly never set foot on the land, divided the tract among themselves on paper and waited for settlers to make it worth something.

And wait they did.

For nearly four decades the interior lay largely unimproved. While a few squatters and early arrivals trickled into the western lots near the river, widespread pioneer settlement did not seriously begin until 1734. In that year, the partners finally commissioned a comprehensive survey by Richard Edsall, partitioning the vast interior into 54 numbered lots. Once those survey lines were on paper, settlement proceeded rapidly, drawing waves of farming families across the border from Connecticut and Massachusetts.



Original Great Nine Partners map 1734 showing approximate position of Bangall[187]

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The patent encompassed most of the modern towns of Clinton, Pleasant Valley, Stanford, Washington, Amenia, and parts of Hyde Park and North East. As population grew, the region was reorganized through a progression of colonial administrative units: first as part of the vast Crum Elbow Precinct, then as Charlotte Precinct, and eventually into the separate precincts of Washington and Clinton in 1786. The formal establishment of the modern town boundaries followed two years later, in 1788. When William Sutherland of Bangall was there it was Charlotte Precinct and it remained a precinct when William's grandson, Peter, came north in 1778. The precincts still had not been retitled as towns.

The interior of the patent was nothing like the Hudson River shoreline to the west where Dutch manor houses and tenant farms had defined the social order for generations. Great Nine Partners, for the most part, was rolling upland country, hilly without being mountainous, drained by small streams that powered local mills, underlaid in places with marble and limestone. The eastern horizon was the Taconic range. The farmland was productive once cleared, and water power on Hunns Lake Creek at Bangall and the headwaters of Wappinger Creek gave the district enough industrial character to attract carpenters and millers as well as farmers. This was not gentry country. It was a working-farm community, English and Scottish in the main, with a strong New England overlay.

In Bangall, the Sutherlands' church was the First Baptist organized in 1759 by members who had emigrated from Massachusetts. The congregation's marriage register preserved today in Rochester, New York, documents eleven Sutherland marriages between 1778 and 1819. The gravestones in the Baptist Cemetery Yard at Bangall -- "a few still standing" as of 1956 -- recorded the family alongside their neighbors for three generations. The Sutherlands were not isolated frontiersmen; they were embedded in a small, dense Baptist community with New England roots and Scots-tinged surnames on every deed.[188]

Hannah who?

William of Bangall's wife is traditionally identified as Hannah Avery, a name that first appears in print as William's wife in Douglas Merritt's 1918 Sutherland Records, where Merritt records

> "William Sutherland...married _____ 1720, Hannah daughter of _____ Avery".[189]

Spencer Mead, writing seven years earlier in his Greenwich history, left the line blank:

> "William m. _____". [190]

Mead also compiled the Avery Family for the same volume and listed several Hannah Averys without naming a single husband. The Sutherland and Avery names do not appear together anywhere in his book.[191]

Frederick Beckwith, in his 1956 *Additional Notes*, went further without going deeper, stating that Hannah was probably the daughter of an Edward Avery who bought property in Horseneck in 1710 and later lived in Dutchess County, an assertion offered without a single supporting document.[192] In Beckwith's notes, he states, in an obvious reference to William of Bangall's purported parents:

> William Southerland and wife "Margaret Toshak ?" [with question mark] came to America from Scotland about 1684 possibly to Greenwich Conn".[193]

On page 36 Frederick lists his references as "Virkis, Mead, Rear Admiral WHH Southerland, Aaron P. Randall, and Merritt". Except for the Rear Admiral, whose personal notes are unavailable, none of those cited authorities provide a primary source that couples the Sutherland and Avery surnames.[194] The *Groton Avery Clan*, a dedicated Avery family history written in 1912, by Elroy and Catherine Avery, contains no Sutherland or Southerland connection at all and no Edward Avery connected to a daughter Hannah.[195]

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Another Beckwith statement, that the supposed father of William of Bangall, William "possibly [came to] Greenwich Conn," cannot be supported. Direct Scottish immigration into coastal Connecticut was limited; many 17th-century Scots bound for the region instead entered through East New Jersey, where proprietary leaders such as Robert Barclay encouraged settlement around Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, and the Raritan valley. Some later moved into New York and Connecticut, but Greenwich itself remained overwhelmingly English, with Scots accounting for less than one percent.

Vessels like the *Henry and Francis* (1685), chartered by George Scot, Laird of Pitlochie, specifically operated as forced transportation ships. About 100 of the 125 passengers aboard that ship were Covenanter prisoners gifted to Scot by the Scottish Privy Council who were to be sold into forced servitude upon arrival. In popular Scottish historical tradition and Covenanter martyrologies, the *Henry and Francis* specifically earned the grim moniker of the "Plague Ship" or the "Death Ship" because malignant fever and dysentery broke out during the 1685 voyage, killing 31 passengers at sea.

The honest, unvarnished conclusion remains: we simply do not know with certainty whom William of Bangall married.

The Family of William of Bangall

Spencer Mead's 1911 *Ye Historie of ye Town of Greenwich* records six sons of William of Bangall: Charles, Roger, David, William Jr., Joseph, and John. Together, they formed a classic gateway generation that pushed outward from Fairfield County, Connecticut, to establish the family on the New York frontier. To genealogical biographers and descendants, calling this fraternity a "gateway generation" isn't merely decorative, it describes a precise structural turning point in the family's American journey. Before these brothers, the entire Sutherland lineage hung by a single documentary thread anchored to William Sr.'s solitary 1722 land purchase at Horseneck.

As a gateway generation, these six sons transformed a single coastal foothold into a broad regional network. Roger remained in Greenwich to anchor the family's Connecticut roots; William Jr. ventured northwest into Westchester County; while Colonel David and John William spearheaded the major push into the rolling hills and mill sites of Dutchess County's Great Nine Partners Patent. John William pushed the frontier even further north, bringing the family name to the roaring falls of Otter Creek in Vermont. Through land deeds, militia commissions, church registers, and estate disputes, this generation created the first extensive paper trail that allows modern researchers to build solid, primary-source connections.

Beyond the six sons, compiled family histories preserve a seventh child: a daughter named Amy Sutherland (b. c. 1743). She married Sylvanus Beckwith and is buried alongside him at McIntyre in the Town of Stanford. Research by Frederick Beckwith suggests Amy was likely William's daughter by a second wife, making her a half-sister to John William. Sylvanus Beckwith notably served in the Revolution under both Colonel David and Captain Roger Sutherland, his "brothers-in-law", providing strong circumstantial weight to the connection. While no surviving primary document explicitly links William and Amy on the same line, including her here captures the full traditional scope of William's household with appropriate reserve.

Ultimately, this family functions as both a lineage bottleneck and a geographical springboard. Many descendants, attempting to trace an 18th- or 19th-century Sutherland line back to its colonial roots, must flow back through one of these doors. They were the transitional pioneers who shifted the family identity from quiet shore-dwellers into frontier millwrights, soldiers, and landholders, effectively opening the gate through which the entire family entered American history.

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i. Charles of Stamford (c. 1716–c. 1755)

Positioned by 20th-century family histories as the eldest son of William Sutherland of Bangall, Charles was born during the family's early period in Fairfield County, Connecticut Colony, though no primary record documents his exact birth or parentage. He remained in coastal Connecticut, marrying **Mary Stevens** in Stamford on 1 Apr 1736, where the births of their six daughters were recorded between 1738 and 1752.

While genealogical tradition stemming from Spencer Mead's 1911 history links him to the Greenwich-Bangall line, Charles's placement in William's family rests entirely on geographic proximity and secondary compilations rather than land or probate ties. He spent his adult life in Stamford, leaving a well-recorded family of daughters, though his precise death date around 1755 remains unverified by contemporary town or court records.[196]

ii. Deacon Roger Sutherland (c. 1719–1798)

While his younger brothers headed west to pursue land and legal drama in Dutchess County, Roger stayed put in Fairfield County. Born around 1719, shortly before his father William made his 1722 land purchase in Horseneck, Roger anchored the gateway generation firmly in coastal New England.

On May 12, 1740, Roger bought his own acreage located about eight miles inland from coastal Horseneck and built a life rooted in the soil and the local meetinghouse. He served for many years as a deacon of the Stanwich Congregational Church[197] living out his adult life within the comfortable agricultural orbits of northern Greenwich and Stamford.[198]

Vital records document two marriages for Roger:

m(1) **Abigail -** around the early 1740s. She bore seven children before her death on 25 Jul 1757. Numerous trees on Ancestry.com list her as Abigail Finch but Roger's first wife's surname is not documented.[199]

m(2) **Mary Scofield -** 20 Apr 1758, she added three daughters to the growing household.[200]

Living close to the New York border meant Roger's farm sat directly in harm's way during the Revolutionary War. British border raids inflicted significant property damage on his holdings earning him official DAR recognition for civil patriotic service due to his war losses.[201]

Secondary genealogies, however, frequently confuse the military record here, routinely conflating Deacon Roger's civil service with the active military career of his eldest son, Captain Roger Sutherland Jr. (1743–1828), who was in Dutchess County serving in his uncle Colonel David Sutherland's 6th Regiment Militia.

Roger executed his last will and testament in Stamford on 4 Jan 1798 and died later that year on 16 Nov 1798.[202] Though he lived his entire adult life as a Connecticut border man, he was buried just a stone's throw across the state line at Middle Patent Rural Cemetery in Westchester County, New York,[203] the same cemetery in which his younger brother, William Jr of North Castle was buried 37 years earlier.

iii. **Col David Sutherland** (c. 1722–1794)

If William of Bangall was the quiet pioneer, his third son, Colonel David Sutherland, was the family powerhouse. Born around 1722 in Greenwich, David removed north into Dutchess County, New York, where he spent his adult life acquiring land, running mills, commanding militia, and creating an administrative paper trail that keeps modern genealogists up at night.

David Southerland was commissioned Colonel of Regiment No. 6 of the Dutchess County Militia on 17 October 1775. A staunch supporter of the Patriot cause, in June and July 1775 he joined 420 of his fellow citizens in Amenia[204] in signing the "Pledge of Association", a local roll of honor bound to oppose British oppression.[205] He entered active military service in January 1777 and served as regiment commander until his resignation in March 1778.[206]

Beyond his military uniform, David was a major player in Great Nine Partners real estate. By 1761, he owned mills in Charlotte Precinct and accumulated hundreds of acres across Lots 19, 20, 21, and 32.[207]

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David was married twice with disagreement between Mead and Merritt as to their surnames.

m(1). **Judith** - 15 Sep 1743. Spencer Mead's history of Greenwich and WikiTree call her Judith Griffin,[208] but Douglas Merritt's *Sutherland Records*, while acknowledging she could be a Griffin, notes that a family Bible identified her as Judith Palmer, b. 9 Feb 1724; d. 17 Apr 1790.[209]

m(2) **Deliverance -** 13 Jan 1791.[210] The nearly 70-year-old Colonel was married to a Deliverance affectionately recorded in family papers as "Tiny". She was three decades his junior and made sure her financial future was secure. Before releasing her dower rights to David's sons, she locked down an initial £130 cash settlement alongside a specific bequest of her riding gear, bed, and a £100 payout.[211]

On March 13, 1794, David dictated his last will and testament[212] and died just a day or two later and that's when the family drama kicked into high gear. When his will was read, David's sons-in-law threw a collective fit. They had convinced themselves the wording gave David's sons only a "life estate" in the valuable lands rather than full ownership, threatening a full-blown court battle.

Rather than spending years enriching Poughkeepsie lawyers, the heirs pulled off a classic 18th-century workaround: They agreed to ignore the will entirely and never submitted it for probate. Sons David, Joel D., and Solomon paid each daughter and her husband £107 10s in cash, well above their share of the movable estate, in exchange for signed quitclaim releases.[213]

The strategy worked like a charm. In 1815, Albany attorney John V. Henry reviewed the original paperwork and confirmed that the sons had held absolute fee-simple title all along.[214]

The original 1794 estate receipts preserved in Merritt's work settle several long-standing errors published by Spencer Mead in 1911: [215]

- Hannah Sutherland: Mead claimed she married Isaac Smith. The April 15, 1794 receipt proves she married William J. (or T.) Sutherland.
- Sarah Sutherland: Mead claimed she married Martin Vansburg. The 1794–1795 payouts show Sarah had died prior to 1794 and her share went to her four sons with Peter Germond (Peter, Silas, Obadiah, and Reuben Germond).
- Judith Sutherland was married to Rowland Gifford.
- Anna Sutherland was married to Col. James Tallmadge.
- Mary Sutherland was married to William R. Sutherland.

In his 1794 will, David freed a young enslaved girl named Dinah and charged his three sons with maintaining an elderly enslaved man named "Old Roger" for the rest of his life. According to family lore, Roger was approximately 100 years old when David died and lived another decade or more.[216]

While many such testamentary clauses faded into history, a rare May 1817 accounting entry by Mary Sutherland (widow and administratrix of son Joel D. Sutherland) proves the family honored the commitment to the penny. Mary submitted a claim for $4.33 paid to David Sutherland for "moving old Roger, board eight days, and digging grave" and $4.17 paid by Joel D. for "funeral charges for old Roger". It provides a quiet, definitive close to Roger's century-long life.[217]

The family liquidated the remaining Stanford homestead, selling the acreage to Stephen Underhill.[218] Power of attorney filings and estate distribution receipts show David's descendants migrating into Chatham (Columbia County), Durham (Greene County), and Buffalo (Niagara/Erie County), setting the stage for the next great Sutherland march toward the western frontier.

iv. William Jr of North Castle (c. 1725–1761)

While his brothers Colonel David and John William made headlines and acquired vast acreage in Dutchess County, William Jr.[219] took a different route. Born around 1725 in Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut, he opted to head north-northwest across the New York border into North Castle[220] in Westchester County.

There, William built a quiet life with his wife Esther but his story ended early. He died in North Castle in 1761, age only 36, leaving behind a brief paper trail in New York County probate records. His 1761 will

named Esther, his eldest son Smith, and several minor children. Here paraphrased from the written record:

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTIONS, VOL. VI, P. 86.

In the name of God. Amen, Aug. 22, 1760, I William Sutherland of North Castle in Westchester County being very Sick. "First of all it is my will that all lawful debts be paid part out of the moveables and part out of the estate"

I leave to my wife Esther 1/3 of the movable estate and the use of 1/3 of the land so long as she continues my widow and the use of the house and home lot. And the charge for repairs of my house to be paid out of the whole of my estate. I leave to my eldest son, Smith Sutherland £20 more than each of his brothers.

After payments of debts I leave all my estate to my children as follows: Each of my sons to be equal in my estate and each of my daughters to have half as much as each of my sons.

It is my will that a certain farm that I had of David Peck be sold. My children to be brought up and schooled until my youngest son is of age. I make my wife Esther and my brother Roger Sutherland executors.

Proved May 27, 1761, 44, Liber 23. Witnesses Jonathan Owen
Stephen Edeject
John Raynolds

William Jr of North Castle was buried in 1761 in Middle Patent Rural Cemetery in Westchester County[221] the same cemetery in which his brother Deacon Roger Sutherland was buried 37 years later.

v. Joseph Sutherland (c. 1730–?)

Every 18th-century family seems to have one: the complete genealogical ghost. In the lineup of William of Bangall's sons, Joseph Sutherland fills that role.

Spencer Mead's History of Greenwich lists him simply as

5. Joseph, b. about 1730

without a single town, church, or land record attached. Douglas Merritt's 1918 chart didn't even bother guessing, leaving his birth and death dates entirely blank.[222]

A sharp critique appeared on WikiTree arguing that Joseph does not belong in this family at all. It was correctly noted that no 18th-century primary records, no tax rolls, land transactions, military rosters, or probate mentions, connect a Joseph to William of Bangall and his wife.

For biographical purposes, Joseph is retained here to acknowledge the traditional secondary consensus established by Mead then later Merritt, but he carries a heavy asterisk. Until primary evidence surfaces, he remains a placeholder born of 19th-century compilation rather than ink on paper.

vi. John William Sutherland (1735-1817) the sixth son, is in the direct line of descent described in this biography so occupies his own section.

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PART TWO: JOHN WILLIAM SUTHERLAND (3 Jul 1735-10 Jun 1817)

The Last of the Greenwich Brood

When the summer of 1735 arrived in British North America, the colonies were undergoing quiet yet seismic shifts. In New York City, the landmark libel trial of printer John Peter Zenger was underway, establishing an early precedent for freedom of the press,[223] while across New England, the religious revival of the (first) Great Awakening was taking hold in America.[224] In the lower Hudson River Valley interior, colonial surveyors had recently partitioned the vast 145,000-acre Great Nine Partners Patent into 54 numbered lots, sparking a surge of agricultural settlement. Into this evolving provincial landscape John William Sutherland was born on 3 July 1735 in Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut Colony, the sixth and youngest documented son of William Sutherland of Bangall and his wife traditionally identified as Hannah Avery.

While his exact birth *date* is preserved in both Merritt's *Sutherland Records*[225] and Spencer Mead's *Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich*,[226] his birthplace has generated conflicting claims in genealogical literature. Merritt skips his birthplace altogether[227] whereas Mead implies Greenwich, stating that among William of Bangall's six sons only David and John William "removed to Dutchess County" which phrasing reflects adult settlement choices rather than childhood origin.[228] On the other hand, recent Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) applications claim he was born at Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York.[229] Given the family's land transactions and migration timeline, the most defensible position is that John William was born in Greenwich shortly before his father's removal to Dutchess County, growing up in the Great Nine Partners patent.

Raised in Great Nine Partners

In Dutchess County, John William came of age within Charlotte Precinct, an agrarian district dominated by New England migrants, Quakers, and Baptists. He remained anchored in that precinct, where he learned the carpenter's trade and accumulated substantial landholdings by the time he was 31. After raising a growing family by the mid-1760s he was stricken with wanderlust, turning his attention northeast to the area still known as New Hampshire Grants.

Trade, Land, and the Socialborough Petition

John William was a builder and timberman of clear intention and foresight. Long before making his permanent purchase at Otter Creek in 1775, he had scouted the northern interior. His name appeared on the original petition of 1769-70 to New York Governor Sir Henry Moore for establishing the town of Socialborough a New York patent encompassing the present-day Vermont towns of Rutland, Pittsford, and part of Brandon. All of those towns had been previously sold to speculators by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth[230] in 1761.[231] See Appendix 1. Signing the New York petition placed him in future conflict with Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys who had "Yorkers" in their sights as they roamed Bennington County intending to defend the original Wentworth grants.[232]

During these years he also established commercial ties with British officers at Skenesborough (present Whitehall, New York) in the Wood Creek corridor at the strategic southern gateway to Lake Champlain about 25 miles west of Rutland.[233] These early connections provided critical intelligence and trade access for his planned mill operations, though they later fueled political suspicion among his New England neighbors during the American Revolution.

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First Marriage: The Mary Germond Enigma

In January 1755, at age 19, John William is traditionally said to have married Mary Germond in Dutchess County. She was 21, born 2 Oct 1733, died 3 Sep 1789.[234] However, no primary civil or church register has survived to confirm the union that produced nine children and 35 years of shared life.

The absence is less mysterious than it sounds. New York required no civil registration of marriages until 1880[235] so the only contemporary record would have been ecclesiastical if at all. Baptist families began organizing informally in the early 1750s, becoming First Stanford Baptist Church at Bangall in 1759.[236] Presbyterian and Congregational families held regular society meetings in private homes and barns farther west along Wappingers Creek throughout the 1750s. The Society of Friends were among the earliest organized religious groups in the interior of the patent, holding regular Preparative and Monthly meetings that recorded births, marriages, and removals; theirs and only theirs.[237]

A frontier couple in 1755 was married by a justice of the peace or by an ordained minister or a Baptist elder riding a circuit through the Patent, performing multiple baptisms and marriages on single visits. If a record was ever made, it has not survived; there was no civil system requiring one. What we are looking at is not a lost marriage. It is a filing system that never existed.

The Germonds[238] themselves were no obscure arrivals. Germonds were present in early 18th-century North America and the earliest identifiable cluster settled in the Hudson Valley of colonial New York, especially in Dutchess County. Their appearance there fits the pattern of French Huguenot migration (Great Refuge)[239] into the region after 1685. The Germonds eventually held the tract around Germond Hill at Verbank (hamlet in Beekman Patent).[240]

Germonds in Dutchess County

An Isaac Germond is in the precinct records by 1740 and served as clerk of Crum Elbow through the 1750s, entering his neighbors' cattle earmarks in his own hand; he left a will in 1760.[241] By April 1772 his son Peter held the clerkship. The first entry of Peter's term belonged to a Thomas Gag -- "a half penney the fore side of the right ear and nick the underside of the left ear" -- one cut on one ear, a different cut on the other, which is how a strayed heifer carried two facts back to the register instead of one.[242]

A fortnight later the clerk entered a mark for his own boy: "Silas Germond son of Peter Germond".[243] It was the eighteenth-century equivalent of a registered trademark, and a reminder that the men whose daughters married Sutherlands were the men who kept the town's books.

The circumstantial case for the surname is stronger than mere adjacency. In the spring of 1771 the heirs of Anthony Rutgers were breaking up the old Rutgers share of Lot 17. Two of the men who took ground out of it were William Southerland, carpenter of Dutchess County, with 206 acres in subdivision lot 5, and Silas German, yeoman of Dutchess, with 213 acres. Neither could pay for it. On 15 May 1772 Southerland mortgaged his parcel straight back to the three heirs for L330; on 22 October Silas German did the same with his for L341. Southerland was 23 years clearing the debt and German 22.[244] Clifford Buck writes the surname "German" here and "Germond (German)" at Deed 820; Germond, German, Germain and Germaine are one Huguenot surname in this county.

Whatever the eighteenth century meant by sweat equity, this was it. Twenty years on, the pattern still held: a 294-acre parcel bounded west by the road from Bangall stood in the possession of Silas Germond Jr. and was bounded east by David and Solomon Southerland, and in the summer of 1797, when Germond needed money against his land in Lots 18, 19 and 20, one of the men he raised it from was Solomon Southerland of Poughkeepsie.[245] These are not two families who happened to share a precinct; they shared fence lines, and when one of them wanted 600 pounds the other was a man he could ask.

Frederick Beckwith names Mary's father outright -- "Marie dau. of Silas Germaine" -- and here the documents decline to cooperate. Three Germond wills name seventeen sons between them and not one is a

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Silas. The only Silas the record knows is the boy who registered his first earmark in April 1772, and a young man cutting his first mark into his own cattle was not fathering daughters in 1733.[246] Brother, not father: mistaking one for the other is the ordinary compiler's error, and Beckwith made worse ones elsewhere. What survives his mistake is the name itself. He had it from a family informant who never saw a Dutchess land record and the Dutchess land records were abstracted by men who never read him, two witnesses that never touched, both placing a Germond beside a Sutherland on the same ground. The family said so too; in the only medium a family had: Mary's son Silas named his children Isabella Germain Sutherland and Silas Germain Sutherland. No document records the marriage itself. The land and the naming place it in Dutchess County and that is as far as the evidence goes.[247]

Mary Germond Sutherland died on 3 Sep 1789 having borne nine children between 1756 and 1773. John William was married again on 22 Feb 1790,[248] 5 months 19 days later, to Jerusha Stanley of Lee, Massachusetts. She was b. 22 Jul 1756 in Tolland, Windham Co, Connecticut Colony[249] and she d. 4 Nov 1835.[250] The haste reads coldly at this distance but would not have then. A working farm did not pause for grief, and a widower of fifty-four with a household to run remarried at the first decent opportunity, which is roughly what the interval between a September burial and a February wedding represents.

The families of John William Sutherland

Reconstructing the roster of John William Sutherland's 13 children across two marriages relies primarily on the traditional standbys, Spencer Mead's *Ye Historie of ye Town of Greenwich* (1911)[251] and Douglas Merritt's *Sutherland Records* (1918).[252] The earlier children by Mary Germond were born in Great Nine Partners; the later births overlap the family's move toward Vermont. The four children by Jerusha Stanley were born in Rutland County Vermont. While primary civil birth registers do not survive for most of these children in colonial Dutchess County or early Vermont, critical anchors in land, tax, and military records allow us to verify several key lines.

Care must be taken when evaluating modern digital repositories (such as WikiTree and Ancestry), where entries frequently cite inaccessible private clan notes or rely self-referentially on trees manage by Mark Sutherland Fisher. Furthermore, Frederick H. Beckwith's 1956 Additional Notes must be set aside as fundamentally unreliable due to invented relationships and erroneous geography (Otto Brook).

Children by Mary Germond:

i. **Peter Sutherland** (b. 20 Feb 1756 – d. 6 May 1828[253]). Eldest son and primary mill heir; accompanied his father to Vermont, eventually inherited the Sutherland Falls enterprise. Was married to Amy Carroll before 1783.
ii. **James Sutherland** (b. 3 or 13 Nov 1758, d. unknown). Served alongside his father in Capt. Simeon Wright's company of Vermont militia, both appearing directly on a 1778 muster payroll.
iii. **William Sutherland 3rd[254]** (b. 4 Mar 1761 – d. unknown). Documented by birth date in compiled genealogies; no further primary trace in Vermont land or military rolls.
iv. **Justus Sutherland 1st[255]** (b. 21 Mar 1763 – 10 Aug 1789). Died age 26 in Vermont. Unlike many of his siblings, his early death is anchored by primary record evidence; his memory was preserved in the family naming tradition, carrying down to his nephew's line where Wisconsin primary death records explicitly document the full name *Justus Avery Sutherland* (d. Dec 21, 1905, son of Justus 2nd and Maria Wessel).
v. **John Sutherland Jr.** (b. 18 Jun 1765 – d. 31 Aug 1831) Early miller in Neshobe (now Brandon), Vermont. Married to Kesiah Strong daughter of Capt. Elisha Strong as documented in local contemporaneous accounts. Co-owned Wallingford properties with his father and signed the 1786 Wallingford deed.
vi. **Mary Sutherland** (b. 22 Oct 1767 – d. unknown). Witnessed a May 1786 Wallingford land conveyance as an unmarried woman alongside her father and brother. Married to Daniel Stanley.

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vii. **Isabella Sutherland** (b. 27 Sep 1769 – d. unknown). She was born as the family transitioned toward the Vermont frontier.
viii. **Silas Sutherland** (b. 3 Aug 1772 – d. 12 Feb 1835 or 1836). Born during the northern migration; secondary trees record marriages to Lucy Foster and/or Lydia Tiffany.
ix. **Arick Sutherland** (b. 27 Apr 1774[256] – d. abt Sep 1838). Grantee on the 1786 Wallingford deed. Married to Rebecca Stanley; among the earliest Sutherland children to migrate west to Illinois.

Children by Jerusha Stanley:

x. **Rachel Sutherland** (b. 7 Jan 1791 – d. unknown). Married to Richard Sylvester; established by primary proof in an 1815 Madison County, New York land deed recital where Sylvester is explicitly designated as John William's "son-in-law".
xi. **Jerusha Sutherland Jr**. (b. 21 Dec 1792 – d. 17 Mar 1876). Married to Melzar Colton.
xii. **Hannah Sutherland** (b. 12 Sep 1795 – d. 5 Feb 1862). Married to Sylvester Hills in compiled secondary records.
xiii. **Justus Sutherland 2nd[257]** (b. 27 Sep 1797 – d. 6 Dec 1873). Named in memory of his deceased older brother; married to Maria Wessel and carried the family line forward into New York and Wisconsin.

The Falls on Otter Creek

Otter Creek (in French *La Rivière aux Loutres),* Vermont's longest river, rises in the Green Mountain National Forest near the town of Peru in Bennington County, and flows southwesterly into the town of Dorset thence northward into Emerald Lake. From there it runs northward passing through the towns of Danby, Wallingford, Clarendon, and Rutland north of which the river valley narrows at what is now Proctor. Here the river cascades down a long rock embankment where it was known in the 18th century as "the falls on Otter Creek" (not the great falls).

In its natural state it was one of the largest waterfalls in New England. The main part cascaded down a rock ramp for 88 feet in a linear run of about 350 feet with the falls becoming steeper as it descends the incline.[258] Prior to the river being diverted upstream, the falls stretched to as much as 160 feet in width but it is a mere trickle now, sometimes running dry in the summer.[259]



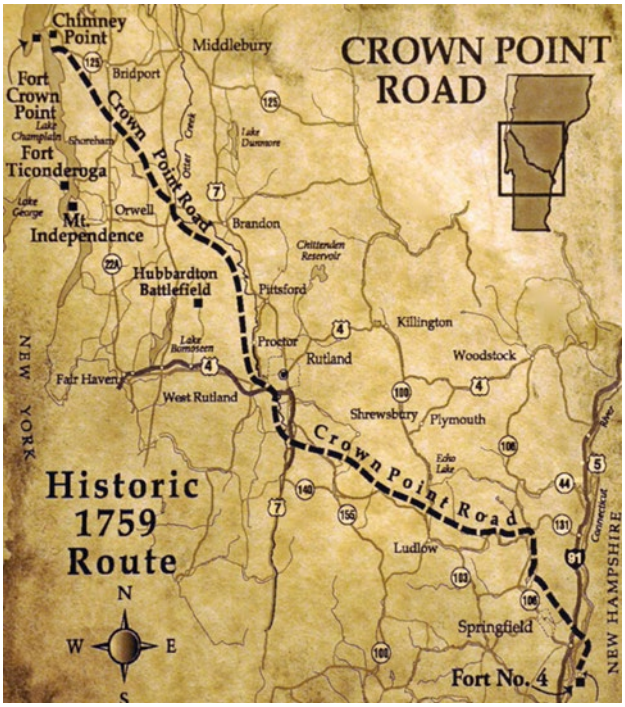
The Great Falls on Otter Creek in its heyday

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Past Proctor, Otter Creek meanders northward, skirting the west side of Pittsford Village before entering Addison County. It next passes through Middlebury, Weybridge and Vergennes and eventually empties into Lake Champlain at Ferrisburgh.[260]

Settling the Valley

First settler, Gideon Cooley, born on 30 Jan 1730/31 in Brimfield Mass was the son of Benjamin4 Cooley and Elizabeth Charles.[261] He had traveled the military roads through the Otter Creek valley as a soldier in the French and Indian War and had spoken favorably of the area. After the war, he was married to Elizabeth Osborn in Brimfield[262] and returned about 1767, before Sutherland arrived, where he built a log cabin in Pittsford immediately northeast of the Falls.[263]



Two rugged roads served the frontier towns of Pittsford and Rutland in the early 1770s. The older, original branch of the Crown Point Military Road ran along the west side of Otter Creek passing directly by the roaring falls while a second, later military branch was cut along the east side on higher ground (roughly tracing the path of present-day Route 3 and U.S. Route 7). A shallow river ford at the creek crossing, where the historic covered Gorham Bridge would eventually be built decades later, tied these two banks together.[264]

John William Sutherland Settles at the Falls

The site at the Falls on Otter Creek was worth settling because the marble bedrock gave a millwright something to calculate against. The drop was reliable, the volume sufficient, and the stone foundation for a milldam cost nothing to quarry. Throughout the interior of southern Vermont, dependable mill seats were few, and a fall with both a steady drop and a marble bedrock foundation was a prize that frontier millwrights seldom found. Dawn Hance, in her 1991 history of Rutland, called it "one of the best mill sites in the state".[265]

A carpenter from Great Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York, John William Sutherland, evidently reached the same conclusion when he purchased 310 acres surrounding the Falls in the spring of 1775, the same season that saw Lexington and Concord.[266]

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He built on the west side of the river across from Gideon Cooley's already-erected log cabin. The gristmill went up first, situated northwest of where a carding machine would later stand. It drew patronage from settlements in every direction including Whipple Hollow in a deep valley over the mountain to the west. The sawmill went in a little farther up the embankment about the same time. The house he built stood two or three rods west of the creek. Shingles pegged, not nailed. Roof-boards pegged. Sides filled with mud, then plastered, never painted.[267]

The mills were the settlement's anchor. Without them there was no flour and no sawn lumber, and the families scratching out farms in the surrounding hollows depended on both. Pittsford records confirm Sutherland was producing lumber by 1780.[268]

Transporting sawn lumber was relatively easy. After it was sawed at the upper mill it was slid over the rocks to the pond below, made into rafts, and floated downstream to customers, an arrangement that got the product to market without a road.

Still, modest was the operative word. Dawn Hance notes that Sutherland Falls remained a small, sparsely populated area until the Humphreys' arrival in the late 1830s with their marble-quarrying operations that expanded into a full industrial enterprise.[269] What Sutherland started in 1775 was not a frontier town but a mill on an excellent site, a working operation in a narrow valley, known to those who needed it, bypassed by most everyone else.

New Hampshire Grants vs Province of New York

By the time John William had built his mills, the ground under his title was already contested. New Hampshire's Governor Benning Wentworth had spent the 1750s and early 1760s chartering 129 towns west of the Connecticut River in an area known as the New Hampshire Grants (See Appendix 1) pocketing substantial personal patent fees and reserving prime timber and town lots for himself as though the territory were his private domain.[270] At the same time, the Province of New York claimed jurisdiction as far east as the Connecticut River under the 1664 royal grant to the Duke of York.[271] In July 1764, King George III and his Privy Council ruled in New York's favor, officially declaring the Connecticut River to be the boundary between the two colonies.[272]

New York's royal governors, most notoriously Cadwallader Colden and later William Tryon, did not merely enforce administrative boundary lines; they seized on the King's ruling as a lucrative real estate scheme for personal enrichment and political patronage. They declared the Wentworth charters completely void, treating the hard-won improvements of the settlers as legal non-entities. New York officials then began re-granting identical tracts over the heads of the occupants to wealthy Albany and Manhattan speculators and land-jobbers, men like James Duane and John Morin Scott, while requiring the original frontier families who had cleared the wilderness to repurchase their own farms at exorbitant fees.[273] Settlers who could not or would not pay faced formal ejectment suits. When the New York Supreme Court sitting at Albany ruled against the New Hampshire grantees in the landmark 1770 ejectment trials, the settlers abandoned the courtroom.[274]

From that moment on, the defense was mounted with force by Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys. They instituted a regime of armed resistance, using their infamous "beech seal", a flogging with heavy beech switches, to drive off New York surveyors, sheriffs, and land agents bold enough to enter the Grants.[275]

Then the American Revolution began in 1775 imposing a second, larger crisis over the first: not just whose land grant, but which sovereign. The Green Mountain Boys quickly threw their military weight behind the Patriot cause. The boys along with Gen Benedict Arnold and Capt Benjamin$_5$ Cooley, Noah's father, captured Fort Ticonderoga on the 10th of May 1775.[276]

With New York's colonial apparatus collapsing and Continental authority in flux, the settlers resolved the standoff entirely on their own terms. On January 15 1777 delegates met at Westminster Courthouse (about 22 miles north of Brattleboro) and declared an independent state, initially called New Connecticut and soon renamed Vermont.[277]

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The Branded Pigs

John William managed to be on the wrong side of both questions at once. He held the Falls under a New York charter, with his name on the Socialborough petition, and he was intimate with the British officers at Skenesborough. In a territory where the Green Mountain Boys were cracking skulls to settle the jurisdiction argument, and where the war would soon make every New York title-holder a suspected Tory besides, this was a poor advertisement.

When he arrived in 1775 the ground was already politically hostile. Four years earlier, New York surveyor William Cockburn had been driven out of Socialborough at gunpoint near the Falls, with Gideon Cooley among the settlers threatening his life.[278]

Local suspicion only deepened when the British advanced down from Canada. While most of the settlement fled, John William stayed behind, unmolested. When the neighbors returned they found their branded pigs in his pen. Dawn Hance, who unearthed the incident from the Rutland County records, characterized John William as "selfish and grasping" and suggested his abrasive personality, as much as his politics, drove the neighborhood hostility.[279]

To protect his mills and secure his standing amid mounting outrage he reluctantly bought the New Hampshire title to his own 310 acres. Yet even surrendering to the dominant local faction failed to heal the rift. The purchase legally secured his property but it never rehabilitated him in the eyes of his neighbors.[280]

A hundred years later the family pushed back. Aaron F. Randall, a great-grandson through Silas, wrote to the New England Historical and Genealogical Register citing the Vermont Adjutant General's records: John William had served "several terms as private and lieutenant in the Vermont troops during the Revolution." Randall called the Tory accusation "utterly false and contradicted by official records" and observed that his great-grandfather "had the misfortune to have been a native of Dutchess County, New York and to have gone to Vermont during the excitement over the settlement of the 'Grants.'"[281]

John Sutherland in the Revolutionary War

In the Rolls of the Soldiers of the Revolutionary War Goodrich documents the Vermont Sutherlands as follows:

> John Sutherland as a private in Captain Simeon Wright's company, Colonel Gideon Warren's regiment, for seven days commencing 7th of November 1778 and ending on the 13th, paid £0.11.08. In the pre-decimal system, a pound (£1) comprised 20 shillings and each shilling contained 12 pence (making 240 pence in a full pound); in this instance, John was paid 11 shillings, 8 pence.[282]
>
> A second entry from the same company lists him as a lieutenant on a scouting expedition serving eight days and 30 miles; he was paid £2.03.00. Private to lieutenant within the same unit reflects ad hoc militia practice, not a formal promotion.[283]
>
> A probable third entry places him with Capt Thomas Bull's Company in Col Ira Allen's regiment on an alarm to the Northward 21 October 1781: John Sutherland served 6 days and 40 miles receiving total wages £1.01.04.[284]

Two additional entries for a "John Sutherland" are less definite for John William. The first shows John and Justus Sutherland in adjacent entries then James Sutherland three lines down. All three served in the same Captain Simeon Wright's company, Col Gideon Warren's regiment. Although another identification is possible, John Jr, Justus, and James were brothers and sons of John William. Could it have been three brothers who were

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sent on a scouting mission "to the Lake (Champlain) against Crownpoint and then to Ticonderoga the last of March, in the years 1780"?[285]

A last entry in Goodrich is for one "John Sutherland" in a detachment of men raised as a levy (drafted into military service) from Col Thomas Lee's Regiment of Militia for the defense of the Frontiers of the State of Vermont in October 1781. They were stationed at Castleton, commanded by Capt Israel Hurlbut, served 10 days, and were paid £0.13.04 each. Since this wasn't the Warren regiment it is possible this was another John Sutherland.[286]

Wallingford with John Jr

Mary Germond died 3 September 1789, place unknown according to Merritt, assumed to be Sutherland Falls. Five months later, on 22 February 1790, John William was married to Jerusha Stanley of Lee, Massachusetts -- the one solidly documented marriage until Noah and Jane's in Pittsford. She was 33, he 54. They had four children between 1791 and 1797. Jane, who was two and a half when her grandmother Mary died, grew up with a step-grandmother only 21 years her senior.

By 1793, John William had largely disposed of his property at the Falls, deeding the mill yard and water privileges to Peter, and relocating 15 miles south to Wallingford. This move was not a quiet retirement to unfamiliar ground. As early as May 1786, John William and John Jr. were already joint property owners in Wallingford, deeding a one-third share of Lots 7, 8, 9, and an adjacent forge tract to John William’s son Arick. In Wallingford,[287] John William continued the same pattern of heavy land speculation and complex financing that had marked his entire career. In August 1794, he and John Jr. encumbered their Wallingford holdings with a substantial mortgage to New York City merchant Thomas Pearsall; by November 1797, they had to secure a partial release on 18¾ acres of Lot 10 to sell off the parcel and begin retiring the debt.

Madison County New York and the Last Years

Around the turn of the century, John William moved west to central New York. By December 1810, at age 75, he was living in Madison County. Rather than a brief sojourn, his residence there spanned at least five years. On 1 January 1815, identified as a resident of Cazenovia, John William and Jerusha conveyed 5½ acres along Chittenango Creek in the Oneida Reservation to their son-in-law Richard Sylvester, who had married their daughter Rachel.[288] Jerusha signed as an active co-grantor, and her August 1816 acknowledgment of the conveyance before a New Jersey Master in Chancery shows the aging couple remained active and mobile well into John William's late seventies.

John William died on 10 June 1817 at the age of 82.[289] Whether he died back at Wallingford, as family tradition holds, or in New York, where his active land transactions place him through at least 1815, has not been established by any primary record located to date. No burial site has been found.

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PART THREE: PETER SUTHERLAND (1756-1828)

Waiting His Turn in Great Nine Partners

When the winter of 1756 closed over British North America, the northern colonies were sliding headlong into the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War in Europe). War parties were harrowing the western borders of Pennsylvania and Virginia in the bloody wake of Braddock's defeat, the forts at Crown Point and Niagara remained formidable bastions of French arms and the provincial militia rolls of the Hudson Valley were filling with men braced for imperial conflict.

Into this unsettled provincial borderland, Peter Sutherland was born on 20 February 1756[290] in Great Nine Partners, Charlotte Precinct, Dutchess County, Province of New York. He was the eldest of the nine children in the John William Sutherland and Mary Germond family.

The Great Nine Partners Peter walked as a boy was no longer the unmapped wilderness his grandfather William had seen surveyed into lots in 1734. By the 1760s the survey lines had filled in with two generations of cleared acreage, timber yards, and stone walls. Bangall had organized its First Baptist meetinghouse in 1759, and the community had settled into that dense, insular rhythm where neighbors knew each other's cattle earmarks and debt notes far better than they knew the King's business in New York. It was, on its face, an ordinary Dutchess County youth, until the spring and summer of 1766, when the tenant world blew apart.

That was the year the Great Anti-Rent Rebellion tore through the district. William Prendergast's tenant "Levelers," pushed past endurance by rack-rents and evictions on lands they had improved with their own axes, took up arms, broke open the Poughkeepsie jail, bringing King George's 28th Regiment of Foot marching into Dutchess County; regular redcoats on roads that had never before seen an imperial uniform. Prendergast was tried for high treason only a few miles from where Peter, then ten years old, would have heard the adult world arguing out the crisis in tavern corners and kitchen firesides. It was the sort of spectacle a boy never quite shakes: armed soldiers patrolling country roads, and grown men speaking in the hushed, careful tones reserved for real danger.[291]

Yet through all the political maneuvering and border friction of the decade that followed, Peter left no mark of his own on paper. No town docket, earmark register, witness line, or tax assessment carries his name before he was grown. The silence is not a historical mystery; it is simply the law of the time working as intended. Until a young man had land of his own, a debt to secure, or a marriage bond to sign, the colony had no reason to write down his name.

What the archive shows instead is the household moving behind him: his father's carpentry and expanding landholdings in Charlotte Precinct, a steady drumbeat of younger siblings crowding the hearth, and, underneath it all, John William's restless scouting to the north. His father had signed the Socialborough petition by 1770 and had spent years laying commercial ties with British officers and timber interests at Skenesborough. In the spring of 1775, that northern reconnaissance solidified into real property: John William purchased upward of 300 acres flanking the Falls on Otter Creek, offering one of the finest mill seats in the territory.

When Peter and his younger brother John Jr. joined their father at the Falls is not recorded. Peter was 19 in 1775 and may well have helped his father from the outset; John was only nine, so his presence there that early is less certain. By 1778, however, both sons were at the Falls and were sufficiently involved in the enterprise for their father to convey them a substantial interest in it.[292]

Peter's circumstances during those first years are equally obscure. Even the date of his marriage to Amy Carroll is unknown. All of their known children appear to have been born after the family became established at Sutherland Falls, but older genealogies disagree over the birth dates of the earliest children. Andrew, for example, has sometimes been assigned a birth as early as 1776, while the evidence examined here places his birth in 1783. The surviving record therefore does not permit the use of the children to date Peter's arrival at the Falls.

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Taking Charge at the Falls

That involvement turned into legal ownership in 1778 when John William Sutherland portioned 175 acres at the Falls to Peter and John Jr. for the consideration of £380.[293] It was less a gift than back-pay structured as a formal sale.

Within a few years, John Jr. deeded his share back to his father who in turn conveyed it to Peter. By 1793 John William had disposed of most of his property at Sutherland Falls and Peter, now 37, was in effective control of the entire enterprise: grist mill, saw mill, dwelling, barns, and the water privileges that made all of it run.[294] In July 1795, after John William had removed to Wallingford, he executed a final deed to Peter completing the transfer of the remaining acres of the mill yard. What Peter had held in part since 1778 was, by the middle of the 1790s, fully and unencumbered his own.

It has been suggested Peter may not have possessed the business acumen of his father.[295] The surviving record makes that difficult to judge. John William had recognized the value of the Falls and established the family's milling enterprise there, but it was Peter whom he ultimately left in control of it. Peter would greatly enlarge upon what he inherited, adding wool carding and fulling, iron working and other ventures while dealing extensively in land. Whether he eventually expanded beyond his means remains possible, but his later financial difficulties alone are not evidence of poor management. As the years ahead would demonstrate, Peter's enterprise was extraordinarily unlucky.

The Household at the Falls

The 1790 census counted 12 in the household against a documented family of five or six.[296] The discrepancy is unexplained, though not inexplicable. The 1790 enumeration was the first and the loosest. Enumerators worked from rough instructions and improvised their own forms and a mill complex with a main house, workers' quarters, and outbuildings housing transient lumber hands presented exactly the kind of counting ambiguity the early census was least equipped to resolve.

The 1800 census counted nine in the Rutland household: Peter and Amy both 26–44, one boy under 10 (unknown), one boy 10 to 15 (Peter Jr.), three girls under 10 (Rebecca, Amy, and Fanny), and two girls 10–15 (Jane and an unknown girl). Andrew, age 17, was apparently missed, as the 16–25 male bracket stands empty.[297]

By 1810 the household again counted nine, with the younger children now age into higher brackets.[298] Jane and Noah were farming a few miles north of the Falls. Andrew had already pushed west toward the Holland Land Purchase, squatting in what would become Cambria, Niagara County, before the decade was out. Amy and Fanny would follow, converging on the same Lewiston-Cambria corridor where the next chapter of the Cooley-Beach-Sutherland family's fortunes would unfold.

The Family of Peter Sutherland and Amy Carroll

Douglas Merritt's 1918 *Sutherland Records* provides the only complete roster of the six children born to Peter Sutherland and Amy Carroll, presented in birth order: Andrew, Peter Jr., Jane, Rebecca, Amy, and Fanny. All six were born at Sutherland Falls, Rutland County, the first four in the Republic of Vermont. While contemporary town vital registers are silent on their individual arrivals, later census tracking, military rolls, cemetery monuments, and private family papers allow the reconstruction of their lives with reasonable fidelity.[299]

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i. **Andrew Sutherland Sr.** (3 Sep 1783 – 28 Feb 1836)

Eldest son and primary heir to the working family tradition. He was married to Naomi Cooley, sister of Noah Cooley, who himself was married to Andrew's sister Jane, on 6 January 1807 at Pittsford,[300] creating a double Cooley-Sutherland alliance across the same generation. He became an early scout for the family's next migration, pushing out to the Holland Land Purchase on the Niagara frontier before the War of 1812. His life, military service, and permanent settlement along Ridge Road are detailed in the section above, *Andrew Sutherland: Early Settler of Ridge Road*.

ii. Peter Sutherland Jr. (est. 1785 – Louisiana, 1818–1824)

Merritt dismisses the second son in exactly five words: "went to the South to teach music", offering not a syllable of documentary proof to support it.[301] Yet the assertion holds up under historical examination. In the early decades of the republic, New England singing-masters routinely worked their way down the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys or along the coastal circuit to New Orleans, conducting winter singing-schools and choir instruction before heading north with the spring thaw.[302]

What ended the venture survives entirely by accident, preserved in an undated letter written by his sister Fanny into the back pages of their father's old account book during an unrelated family crisis: "*we have lately received the melancholy news of Brother Peter's death, he died in Louisiana after a short illness of six days with the prevailing fever of that country*". Six days from onset to grave is the classic, lethal trajectory consistent with yellow fever, the "prevailing fever" that was epidemic in Louisiana at the time. Fanny clearly distinguished it from the recurring "fever and ague" (endemic malaria) that had been debilitating the rest of the household back home for months. New Orleans suffered severe yellow fever epidemics in 1818, 1819 (over 2000 deaths), and 1822; any of those outbreaks fits the timeline.[303]

No death certificate, newspaper obituary, or marked grave has ever been located for him, and none is likely to surface. Short of unearthing an unindexed parish or municipal interment record in Louisiana, Fanny's single, grieving sentence remains the whole of Peter Jr.'s biography: no marriage, no known issue, and no further paper trail.

iii. Jane Sutherland (abt 1787 – est. 1845–1849)

Jane was married to Noah Cooley of Pittsford on 24 January 1804. As the direct maternal ancestor of this biography, her life, migrations across three states and documentary disappearance occupy Part Four.

iv. Rebecca Sutherland (19 Feb 1791 – 19 Mar 1852)

Rebecca was married about 1815–1816[304] to Zephaniah[305] Keith, a Massachusetts-born[306] carpenter who served as a regular army sergeant during the War of 1812. His enlistment papers preserve a vivid physical thumbnail: 28 years old, 5 feet 6¼ inches tall, with grey eyes and sandy hair.[307]

A remarkable, undated letter drafted by her sister Fanny into their father's old mill ledger, addressed to Keith relatives in Pennsylvania, captures the family in total physical collapse. Rebecca had been "*taken sick the 5th of July,*" and for weeks "*her life has not been expected*". Her eldest boy Gustavus (b. 1816) came down sick in mid-July; a second infant son, evidently named Sutherland, was seized with "*the fever Ague*" and languished three or four months; while "Brother Zeph" was laid flat from late July through December before finally undertaking an arduous journey back to Vermont to convalesce. Unable to care for her ailing children, and with Peter and Amy "*old and very infirm,*" Rebecca pleaded with the Pennsylvania relatives to take the boys until the storm passed.

Whether the infant Sutherland Keith survived remains doubtful; he vanishes from all later records, and the seven-year gap between Gustavus (1816) and their next confirmed child, Frank (1823), leaves ample room for an unmarked burial.

The Keiths eventually stabilized and joined the westward tide, settling by mid-century in Richmond Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio, where Zephaniah appeared on the 1835 tax rolls working his trade as a

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carpenter.[308] In the 1850 US Census for Ashtabula County, Ohio, Zephaniah's family was enumerated in Kingsville where his occupation was "Tavern Keeper" in the "Eating and Drinking Places" industry. [309]

Rebecca, consistently styled "Rebekah" by her family in Fanny's 1817 letters and on her surviving gravestone, died in Ohio on 19 March 1852 and was buried in West Lakeville Cemetery at Amboy.[310]

Zephaniah survived her by eight years, dying on 7 Jun 1860 across the state line in Conneautville, Pennsylvania, a municipal distinction that early secondary compilers occasionally muddled with nearby Conneaut, Ohio.[311] He was also buried alongside his wife in West Lakeville Cemetery at Amboy.[312]

v. Amy Sutherland (abt 1796 – 22 Aug 1876)

Amy was married to George C. Riedel (Riedal, Reidell, Riedall) Sr. Amy leaves the faintest documentary imprint of Peter's six children. Merritt grants her nothing beyond the terse notice "*marr. Riedal,*"[313] and no primary birth, probate, or land record for George C. Riedel Sr. has ever been found. He exists in the archive solely as the father named on his son's subsequent marriage record. [314] The union itself can be dated only by inference, pegged to the birth of that son, George C. Riedel Jr., about 1816.[315]

Thereafter, Amy's biographical trail survives exclusively through her son's household. She appears with George Jr. in Lewiston, Niagara County, New York, in the 1850 federal census (age 54); remains in his home in Jackson County, Michigan, in 1860 (age 66); and finally died in Detroit on 22 August 1876. Her passing was noticed in the *Niagara Falls Gazette*, the very newspaper that had tracked her brother-in-law Thomas Pool's family decades before.

> OBIT-We have intelligence of the death of Mrs. Amy Rielel [Riedel], at the residence of her son [George C. Jr.], in Detroit, on the 22nd ult [22 Aug 1876], in the 82nd year of her age. She was the last survivor of the Sutherland family who gave name to Sutherland Falls, Vermont. A brother died many years ago in Cambria [Andrew Sutherland Sr], and a sister, Mrs. Thomas F. Pool, died also many years ago in Lewiston [Fanny]. Many relatives and friends in various parts of this county will hear with sorrow of the close of her long and eventful life. In her prime, deceased was a lady of remarkable strength of intellect and of far more than ordinary intelligence. Two sons and a daughter survive--the latter, Mrs. M.A. C. Watt, a lady of talent at the head of an educational institute at Yellow Springs, Ohio.[316]

A widow outliving an unrecorded husband and spending her final decades in the home of a son is a familiar shape for a woman's life on the 19th-century frontier.

vi. Fanny Sutherland (8 Apr 1798 – 15 Jul 1850)

Fanny was married to Thomas Foster Pool of Niagara County, New York, about 1824–1825,[317] settling in the Lewiston-Cambria corridor of the Holland Land Purchase near where her siblings Andrew, Jane, and Amy had already made their homes and where Thomas's father Acish had arrived in 1811. Thomas was born 4 Nov 1800 in Abington, Plymouth County, Mass.[318]

It is Fanny's pen, however, rather than her marriage that makes her indispensable to the family chronicle. As an unmarried young woman of nineteen, living at Rutland through the grim winter of 1817–1818, Fanny appropriated the blank leaves of her father's old leather-bound mill ledger, the very volume once used to track saw bills and grist tolls, to write her personal journal and draft letters. The result is an unflinching, eyewitness account of a household in terminal economic retreat: an officer of the court arriving to drive off "*our last cow*" on an execution; Peter Sutherland setting out across the frozen roads to Pennsylvania with "*a load of chains*" in a desperate scheme to satisfy his creditors; and her own raw plea that "*adverse fortune*" might relent and allow her aging father to "*live at ease the remainder of his days*". Her ledger entries also preserve the only known record of her brother Peter Jr.'s fatal fever in the South. See Appendix 14.

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Fanny died at Lewiston on 15 July 1850[319] age 52 years and was buried at Dickersonville Cemetery in the Town of Lewiston. Her husband Thomas Pool was remarried to Maria Cotton about 1851. He died 21 Jul 1886[320] in Lewiston and also was buried at Dickersonville Cemetery.

The Mills and the Speculative Web

By the mid-1790s Peter was fully in charge of the Sutherland Falls operation yet he was never merely a local miller; he became an ambitious land speculator across Rutland County. In January 1795, he acquired a sprawling 2,000-acre tract consisting of various proprietors' "Rights" for £150 from Gideon Cooley, though recorded with the eccentric, nonexistent location designation of "Philadelphia, Vermont," an administrative phantom that occasionally surfaced in local deeds to describe private or unorganized property.[321]

Among these speculative plays was the Gideon Cooley farm across from Sutherland Falls, recognized as the first settled farm in Pittsford. By March 1795 he was advertising the 175-acre former Cooley farm for sale in the Rutland newspaper.[322] Shortly after, in April 1795, he divested a minor holding, selling an acre of land in Wallingford to Elihu Johnson for £40.[323]

Peter's financial entanglements deepened as the decade wore on. In May 1796, Nathaniel Moseley "of Pawlet" sold him several tracts totaling 2,000 acres in the same phantom "Philadelphia" jurisdiction, including rights originally belonging to Benjamin Cooley, for £225.[324] The transaction functioned more as a secured loan than a straight sale: the record stipulated that if Moseley repaid the 225 pounds plus interest by October 1, 1797, the deed would be nullified. Peter’s ledger sheet continued to collect speculative parcels through small proprietor purchases, several of which were formalized in July 1799 when the Rutland sheriff, for just $14.75, deeded him multiple allotments as being part of a sale of land for overdue taxes.[325]

Iron, Ashes, and a Wine License

As for his father's mill operation, Peter was not content to call it done. From the last decade of the 18th century through the first half of the 19th, he expanded Sutherland Falls into a surprisingly varied industrial establishment adding an iron forge and a trip-hammer shop. By 1800 the complex comprised a saw and gristmill, a fulling mill,[326] iron works, four houses, a barn and tool house, an apple orchard, a hog pasture, a beaver pond, and twenty tons of hay. It was becoming a small mill village on the west bank of Otter Creek.

Yet Peter was already willing to sell. In March 1800 he advertised 300 acres at the "great falls," asking $1,000 down with the balance payable in five annual installments.[327] He was also willing to divide the property, offering the house and 100 acres separately if a buyer preferred. What prompted the advertisement is unknown. The substantial down payment suggests that Peter placed considerable value on the property, while his willingness to carry the remainder for five years does not suggest an urgent cash sale. As it turns out, there were no takers.

Peter continued expanding his industrial interests. By September 1804 he and his partner Aaron Thrall were advertising a newly erected carding machine[328] at Sutherland Falls in the *Rutland Weekly Herald*. They charged eight cents per pound for carding wool, but cash was not essential: half the charge could be paid in wheat, butter, or pork and the other half in produce. The advertisement offers a small glimpse of the economy in which Peter operated, one in which machinery and improvements required capital, while customers might pay their bills with a bushel of wheat or a side of pork.

Peter also obtained a license to retail wine in Rutland, wine only. It seems an incongruous addition to a business that already encompassed flour, lumber, iron and wool, but it further illustrates how widely Peter's activities ranged.[329]

By 1805 his business dealings were reaching the courts as well. In January he was ordered to appear before the County Court to show cause why Jacob Wills, imprisoned under a judgment obtained by Peter, should

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remain confined. The case does not show Peter himself in financial difficulty; he was the creditor, but it does reveal a problem that would appear again later: being owed money was not the same thing as being paid.

The operation Peter had assembled was substantial, but it was also demanding. Land, buildings, dams and machinery represented wealth without necessarily providing ready cash. His mills depended upon Otter Creek for their power, his customers lived in an economy still partly based on barter, and money owed could prove difficult to collect. None of this proves that Peter was financially overextended by 1805. It does, however, show the increasingly complicated enterprise he was trying to manage.

Fire, Flood, and the Last Cow

Peter's interests were not confined to Sutherland Falls. In August 1806 he advertised for sale his share in a pair of carding machines, together with the building and water privileges, standing on Charles Rich's dam in Shoreham, some twenty-eight miles north in Addison County. Whether Peter was trying to raise cash, withdraw from a distant partnership, or concentrate his business at Sutherland Falls is not known. Nor is it known whether he found a buyer. The advertisement does show that for a time he had capital invested in water-powered carding operations at two separate locations.

Whatever his plans, disaster soon overtook the operation at home. On 24 September 1807 the carding machines at Sutherland Falls were destroyed by fire.[330] Peter recovered sufficiently to continue developing the site, but four years later nature dealt him a far heavier blow.

On 22 July 1811 a catastrophic freshet swept down Otter Creek. Bridges, dams and mills were carried away throughout Rutland County; contemporary accounts estimated that two-thirds of the mills along the affected streams were destroyed. It truly was a dreadful deluge.[331] At Sutherland Falls the flood swept away Peter's sawmill and gristmill. His wool-carding and fulling mill and iron forge survived, but much of the industrial establishment he had spent years building was gone.

The surviving records do not establish that the flood alone ruined Peter, nor that his difficulties began with it. His numerous landholdings, speculative purchases, and outside business interests suggest a man whose wealth was heavily invested in property rather than cash. The records after 1811 increasingly show the consequences.

In March 1813 Peter recovered a judgment against Caleb Whipple for $345.26 in damages and $9.35 in court costs, a substantial sum.[332] But winning a judgment was not the same as collecting it. Whipple did not pay and was ordered jailed. In August he instead offered Peter property in satisfaction of the debt: a 22-acre tract and additional land along Otter Creek adjoining Peter's holdings. Peter had won his case, but instead of receiving badly needed cash he acquired still more land.[333]

Within two years Peter himself was in arrears. In October 1815 he appeared on a delinquent-tax list for 241 acres in Cornwall.[334] In May 1817 another notice listed unpaid federal direct taxes on about 84 acres divided among several small tracts, another 25 acres at Sutherland Falls, and 34¾ acres in Pittsford containing a house and cooper's shop.[335] Unless the taxes were paid within a year, the properties were subject to public sale.

The pattern suggests not a man suddenly stripped of everything, but one increasingly rich in property and poor in ready money. Peter still possessed land, buildings and water rights; other men owed him money; yet taxes and debts required cash. The fire of 1807 and the freshet of 1811 had destroyed productive machinery and mills that could generate that cash. Whether Peter had expanded beyond his means before those disasters cannot now be proved, but by 1817 his financial difficulties were no longer conjecture.

A Voice within the Family

The only contemporary account of this household belongs to daughter Fanny who, in the summer of 1817 and into the winter of 1818, at 19, kept a diary for a few pages. It is not a cheerful document. On 20 July 1817 she wrote that her brother-in-law George Reidell (Riedel), sister Amy's husband, had gone to Massachusetts to sue for money owed him, failed, returned to Vermont, and was committed to debtor's prison. Riedel's family

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would have been stranded had they not moved in with the Sutherlands. It was "mortifying to my pride", Fanny wrote, "yet love for my sister" made it bearable.[336]

The entries that follow sketch a household running on fumes. By January 1818 Peter himself was on the road, hauling a load of chains to Pennsylvania in an effort to raise money against his debts. Then a man named Thayne came to the Sutherland farm and drove away their last cow as security for having posted bail on an execution against Peter. Dr. Shaw charged four dollars to mend Peter's broken leg. Fanny attended school when circumstances permitted and, when they did not, earned what she could by making pantaloons for Mr. Loveland.[337]

The contrast with the Peter Sutherland of a decade earlier could hardly have been greater. He had owned saw and grist mills, iron works, carding and fulling machinery, water rights and hundreds of acres of land. Now his daughter watched the family's last cow being led away.

The Long Parting from Sutherland Falls

By 1818 Peter was plainly in financial trouble. Taxes had gone unpaid and an execution had been issued against him. That was the year Peter began parting with substantial portions of Sutherland Falls. He conveyed the water rights on the east side of the Falls to Solomon Gill of Rutland for eight dollars. David Gale, Proctor's local historian, later observed that eight dollars would hardly have paid for writing the contract. The price is all the more striking because these were rights to the same falling water upon which Peter had built much of his livelihood.[338]

But the eight-dollar deed was not, as it might first appear, Peter's final sale of Sutherland Falls. His withdrawal from the place occurred piecemeal.

That same year he sold R. M. Powers a parcel of land inherited from his father including what is now the northern portion of the village of Proctor, water rights on the west side of the Falls, and an old building near the water. Powers later conveyed 15 acres of that ground for $45 -- the very parcel where the Humphrey's marble quarry would open in 1836. Within half a century the site would produce enough marble to transform a hamlet into a company town that was renamed after a United States senator, Redfield Proctor.[339]

These were important pieces of the Sutherland property, but Peter still had not relinquished everything. He continued to own land at Sutherland Falls and in 1825 he sold another and possibly final tract there.

Peter's parting from Sutherland Falls was therefore not a single transaction but a prolonged retreat. It began while his household was in serious financial distress and continued for at least another seven years. Piece by piece, land and water rights that his family had held and developed for decades passed into other hands.

The Sutherlands had valued the place principally for its falling water. Otter Creek had powered their saws and millstones and later Peter's carding, fulling and iron-working machinery. Yet the resource that would eventually make Sutherland Falls famous was not the water rushing over the falls but the stone beneath the surrounding land.

The Sutherland name survived only in the community YMCA, the Sutherland Club, a belated nod to the family that had parted with the place for next to nothing.[340] The family that had given Sutherland Falls its name had spent generations developing its water power; another generation would discover the greater fortune in the marble beneath it.

Late of Cambria

Before 1820 Peter had left Vermont for the Holland Land Purchase. The United States census of 1820 for Cambria, Niagara County, New York identifies him as head of household engage in agriculture, age greater than 45 with a female age over 45 -- almost certainly Amy Carroll -- and two unknown younger people. Peter was enumerated 15 households away from his son Andrew, placing him within the Beach-Sutherland-Cooley enclave on the Niagara frontier but some distance away from Molyneaux Corners itself.[341]

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However, a deed signed just two years later on 25 Jul 1822 in Clarendon Vermont identifies him as "of Clarendon, late of Cambria, New York".[342] Then two years later on 11 Jul 1824 Peter was married to "Mrs. Content Briggs" of Clarendon, the "Mrs" indicating Briggs was a married name. The Rutland Herald noted: "both in the 69 year of their age".[343] This late-in-life marriage lasted less than a year. Content died 18 May 1825 age 70.[344] True to his shifting property trail, Peter executed a final local land transaction on September 8, 1825, selling approximately 60 acres at Sutherland Falls.[345]

Peter Sutherland died 6 May 1828 in Starksborough, Addison County, 25 miles northwest of the falls that bore his name. The Rutland Herald gave him two lines: "In Starksborough, 6th inst. Mr. Peter Sutherland, age 72, formerly of this town".[346] Why he was in Starksborough is unknown.

Starksboro (current spelling) is in Addison County sitting in a rugged, picturesque valley where the steep drops of Lewis Creek provide exceptional water power. Culturally, early Starksborough was heavily populated by migratory families coming out of Dutchess County, New York, and western Connecticut, the exact communities the Sutherlands belonged to. The town had a strong, vibrant Society of Friends and Freewill Baptists. For an aging veteran of the frontier who originally hailed from the Great Nine Partners, moving to Starksboro meant living among familiar families with shared ancestral roots.

Despite the strong paper trail for Peter in his final years, no burial records for himself, Amy, or Content have been found.

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PART FOUR: JANE SUTHERLAND (1787-1845/49)

Vermont Wasn't Listening

In the summer of 1787, four years after the Revolutionary War was won, the founding fathers in Philadelphia set about drafting a constitution. Surprisingly, none of that work touched Vermont which had declared itself an independent republic in 1777, coining its own money, outlawing slavery, and minding its own affairs. Jane was born in Sutherland Falls in August of that summer where she was a Vermonter for four years before she became an American.

A Mill-Yard Childhood

The Falls were no quiet place to be a child. Otter Creek dropped down a bedrock embankment in full roar, the grist mill and saw mill ran off its water, and rafts of new-sawn lumber were floated down the creek. There were ledges to scramble over, the millpond, the wheel turning, the saw working a log, a child's wonderland, but a dangerous one. Jane grew up right in the middle of it.

What schooling a girl might get in such a place was thin. New England towns kept their common schools, and girls did attend, though less often and less steadily than boys; a frontier hamlet's school ran a few weeks at a stretch and taught little past reading, writing, and figuring. Far more of Jane's day would have gone to work at her mother's side--spinning, sewing, the garden, the younger children--the work that turned a girl into a wife. See Appendix 15 Girls' Schooling in Colonial New England.

An exception was Jane's younger sister Fanny who learned to write in the first decade of the 19th century and went on to write prolifically especially letters to her sisters and in-laws.

At Three, Older than Her Aunts and Uncles

When she was just three years old her 54-year-old grandfather, John William, was married to Jerusha Stanley[347] and a new young family began growing at the Falls with half-aunts and half-uncles born after Jane herself. All-in-all, four children were born to this marriage: Rachel b. abt 1791, Jane age 3; Jerusha Jr b. 21 Dec 1792, Jane age 5; Hannah b. 12 Sep 1795, Jane age 8; and Justus 2nd b. 27 Sep 1797, Jane age 10.[348] What held steady until she was married in 1804, though, was the mill-yard where the Sutherland name was on everything in sight.

Two Families, Twice Joined

At sixteen and a half, Jane was married to 21-year-old Noah Cooley in Pittsford, the town clerk Caleb Hendee officiating.[349] She was young for it since New England women of the day more often married at 20 or 22. But this match needed no reaching. The Cooley half-brothers from Greenwich Mass had settled this stretch of Pittsford and Rutland a generation earlier: Gideon Cooley, Noah's half-uncle, about 1767 and Noah's father, Benjamin5 Cooley in 1769.[350]

Jane had not come to the Cooleys as a stranger. Noah's younger sisters, Mary, a year older; Naomi, a year younger; then Eunice nearly four years younger, made a cluster of girls close to her own age the Sutherland side had never quite given her until Rebecca, Amy, and Fanny were born beginning in the mid-1790s. Both households had been filling with children in the very same years, the Cooleys on the Post Road, the Sutherlands at the Falls.

The wedding was not the only tie between the families. Three years later Jane's elder brother Andrew Sutherland was married to that same Naomi Cooley, on 6 January 1807,[351] a second Sutherland-Cooley match inside three years, the kind of doubling a small frontier settlement fell into almost by reflex.

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Three Boys and a Daughter, in That Order

Four children were born to Jane and Noah at Pittsford -- Andrew Sutherland Cooley (1804), Samuel Thurman (1806), Caleb Carroll (1808), and Jane Eliza (1811).[352] These were also the years the ground shifted under both families. The fire of 1807 and the freshet of 1811, the blows that broke her father's operation at the Falls, fell in exactly the years Jane was bearing her first children.

Vermont in those years did not yet face the agricultural exhaustion found in the older farming districts of Massachusetts and Connecticut, where generations of cultivation had depleted fields and repeated subdivision had reduced many family farms. Much of Vermont's farmland was still newly cleared and productive, and its towns were not yet crowded. But good land and a living are not the same thing when the markets are closed.

President Jefferson's Embargo of 1807, the same measure that had helped strangle the trade at Sutherland Falls, struck Vermont's farmers as well. Their readiest markets for wheat, oats, butter, and cheese lay at Montreal and Quebec City to the north. The Embargo throttled the lawful trade in grain and dairy products, drove much of the northern traffic into smuggling across the Canadian line, and left farmers with produce they could grow but could not readily turn into cash.[353]

Against that backdrop -- mills burning, markets throttled, debts accumulating -- it is not surprising that eyes in the Cooley and Sutherland households were turning toward the Western Country, as western New York was known to New Englanders at the time. Noah's mother's brothers, Philip, Jesse, John, and Aaron Beach, had already settled in the Holland Purchase in Niagara County. Noah's brother-in-law Andrew had gone there just before the War of 1812 broke out, but Noah waited. By the time Noah and Jane followed in 1815, they were not venturing alone into an unknown wilderness. They were joining an established circle of kin on the Niagara frontier.

The Niagara Years, 1815-1832

Jane arrived in Cambria with four children, Andrew, Samuel, Caleb, and Jane, and a husband carrying more ambition than capital. The Holland Land Company's Ridge Road corridor was no wilderness by 1815, yet the land Noah had articled was mostly unimproved, and unimproved land in the Holland Purchase meant years of stump-pulling, draining, and fencing before a single acre paid its way. The terms of Noah's contracts were unforgiving in the way that looked generous on paper: small down payments, deferred balances, and few demands for repayment. The Company made it easy to start but for Noah nearly impossible to finish by himself. Jane had traded one mill-yard for another kind of noise entirely: the sound of a man working himself to exhaustion against an obligation that had no fixed deadline but never went away. For Jane, that arithmetic translated into a household that was always one bad harvest, one lame horse, one broken axle from falling behind.

Four more children were born in those Cambria years: Milton Potter in April 1818, Noah Beach in November 1819, who survived less than a year, Mary Isabel in February 1823, and Benjamin Franklin about 1825, the same year his eldest brother Andrew was married to Salome Warren. The household was growing at the same rate that Noah's grip on the land was loosening. Jane was nursing infants and watching her husband's name slide out of the Company's good graces at the same time. The older boys including Andrew had gone to Michigan before the decade was out, and what remained of Noah's hold on the purchase was eroding without them.

Sometime between 1825 and 1828, the family left Cambria and their prize parcel in Lot 54 for the Town of Newfane, a few miles to the northeast. No record explains the move, and none was likely made. A man does not file papers when he retreats. The 1830 U.S. census shows a family of five, Benjamin F. (5), Mary Isabel (7), Milton (12), Noah (47), and Jane (42). Newfane put a little distance between Noah and the forfeited lots visible down Ridge Road, and it kept Jane within reach of the Coomer family into whose household two of her daughters would eventually marry. The Coomers were well established in Newfane by their patriarch

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grandfather, Benjamin Coomer in the first decade of the 19th century. The Cooley move, however, was not a solution. It was a pause.

Jane had been watching the decline for 16 years. The land Noah had cleared and farmed had never become his, not in any legal sense that held. The sons who were able to help him had gone to Michigan. With his nephew, a last attempt to recover Lot 54 under the Company's Modified Sale program failed in 1831. There was nothing left in Niagara County to negotiate with or for. The family that had arrived on Ridge Road with four children and a contract now left it with three children still at home and no contract at all. What Jane thought about any of it went unrecorded, the way everything about her went unrecorded. She packed whatever was packable, and they left.

Westward Without a Word

The departure from Niagara County left no record. By 1832 or 1833 Noah and Jane had followed the younger generation to Michigan as did brother Samuel and his family, who left Lot 55 on Ridge Road for Macomb County about the same time. By 1840 the household was in Seneca Township, Lenawee County with a possible stop in the Toledo Strip before getting there.

The route from Newfane would have taken them along the Erie Canal to Buffalo and then by lake steamer to Detroit though overland through Canada by way of the Niagara River crossing is possible too. Andrew, Samuel, and Caleb had settled in Oakland County which lay just northwest of Detroit but Noah chose to push farther south and west into the disputed Toledo Strip near where his future son-in-law, Arnold Coomer as an unmarried man, had been active for several years. The Toledo Strip was a narrow band of land that Michigan and Ohio both claimed and that Congress would not resolve until 1836. Land was cheap in disputed territory because title was uncertain, and that was exactly the kind of bargain Noah had been chasing since 1815.

It is uncertain when the family moved northward but by 1840 they had settled into Seneca Township, Lenawee County, which bordered Ohio on its south side after the Toledo Strip was given to that state. The landscape here was nothing like the Otter Creek valley or the Ridge Road corridor. This was flat, heavy-timbered country along Bean Creek, recently cleared of Native claims by the Treaty of Fort Meigs and the Indian Removal Act.

Jane was 52. She had been married 36 years, had borne eight children, buried one, and crossed three states. The 1840 census counted four in the household: Noah, Jane, Mary Isabel at 17, and Benjamin at 15. Milton was elsewhere in the early 1840s, possibly living with a brother. By 1845 he had reunited but had returned to Niagara County the next year and was living with the Gormer family in Lockport in 1850.[354] By 1860 he had settled in St. Joseph County, Michigan, two counties west of Lenawee.[355]

What held steady was the kinship pattern. Jane Eliza and Arnold Hix Coomer were in Morenci, Seneca Township. Caleb Carroll had come from Oakland County to Hudson, eight miles north, and Samuel Thurman had come from Shiawassee County and settled in Pittsford, Hillsdale County, four miles west of Hudson just over the present county line. The Cooley children, minus Andrew S. who went to Iowa Territory, had not scattered randomly across Michigan; they had clustered, the way the Beaches and Sutherlands had clustered on Ridge Road a generation earlier. Jane, who had grown up inside one kinship enclave along Otter Creek in Rutland County, then spent her middle years inside another on Ridge Road, now spent her last years inside a third along Bean Creek in Lenawee County. The geography changed. The pattern did not.

Last Tick Mark

The Michigan State Census of 1845 delivers something the federal record could not: a second sighting of Jane Sutherland Cooley, alive and in place, five years after the 1840 enumeration that had stood for many years as the last documentary trace of her existence. The state census, designed less to count heads than to track taxable settlers flooding into Michigan's rapidly filling townships, enumerated a household of five in Seneca

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Township. Milton Potter Cooley, age 27, had returned to the family fold, bringing the household back to the size it had been in Niagara County.

Arnold Coomer and his small family appear on the line immediately above Noah and Jane -- the enumerator's pen moving house to house down the road -- which places the two households as near neighbors on the ground as they are on the page.[356] Whether that proximity reflects shared farmstead boundaries or a family cluster on what is now Coomer Street in northeast Morenci is not known.

What the census does establish, without ambiguity, is that the household was still under one roof, still intact, 15 years after Niagara but the nest was about to empty. Milton, age 28, returned to Niagara County in 1846, Mary Isabel, age 24, was married to Arnold Coomer's younger brother, Benjamin Goff Coomer in 1847 whereupon they settled in Oakland County, and by 1850, Benjamin F. was living with his older brother Samuel in Hillsdale County. Then the record stops for Jane Sutherland Cooley.

The Closing Window: Seneca Township

The federal mortality schedule for Seneca Township compiled for the 12 months beginning 1 June 1849 and ending 1 June 1850, records those reported as having died in the township during the year preceding the date of the census. Jane Sutherland Cooley is not among them.[357] Paradoxically, this omission is the most decisive piece of evidence concerning her death. Her absence from the schedule eliminates the year preceding June 1850, while her disappearance from the 1850 decennial census itself, which found Noah living alone in his brother Azariah’s household back in Pittsford, Vermont, brackets her death between the 1845 state census and mid-1849. Somewhere in that four-year window, the Seneca Township household contracted for the last time.

By the late 1840s the family's center of gravity lay near Morenci, where Jane Eliza and Arnold Coomer lived. That proximity makes the Morenci vicinity a plausible place for Jane's final residence and burial, but no record establishes it.

The Lost Marker

Locating her resting place remains an unsolved problem. An 1874 map of Morenci shows a large village cemetery northwest of land once held by A. H. Coomer; modern maps preserve roughly a quarter of that ground as the Old Morenci Cemetery. When the town established Oak Grove Cemetery two miles north in 1873, lot owners routinely hired the sexton to disinter ancestors from the old grounds for reburial in new family plots.

Arnold and Jane Eliza Coomer are buried in Oak Grove under a prominent family monument, but an on-site search in 2008 revealed "no other markers".[358] A broader survey of Lenawee County cemetery indexes at Adrian similarly failed to locate her.[359] Whether she lies fifty feet from her daughter in an unmarked grave, rests under a fieldstone weathered past legibility, or remains in the older, disturbed village ground, the paper trail ends. Michigan did not mandate civil death registration until 1867, and Lenawee County probate and church records offer no obituary, will, or estate administration.

Coverture and the Common Erasure

For much of Jane's lifetime, the common-law doctrine of coverture severely restricted a married woman's independent legal and property rights.[360] Coverture generally prevented a married woman from holding or conveying property independently and usually kept her off tax rolls in her own name (though unmarried women and widows did have some of these rights). Federal enumerators through 1840 compressed Jane's life into an anonymous tick mark within her husband's row in the census. The 1850 census was the very first federal enumeration designed to record every household member by name, the exact enumeration Jane missed by mere months.

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After the rise of the women's rights movement in the mid-19th century, coverture came under increasing criticism as oppressive and as hindering women from exercising ordinary property rights or entering professions. Coverture was first substantially modified by late-19th-century *Married Women's Property Acts* passed in various common-law jurisdictions.

This erasure did not begin with Jane. Her three female ancestors traditionally identified as Amy Carroll, her mother; Mary Germond, her grandmother; and Hannah Avery, her great-grandmother, remain bound to the family tree solely through oral tradition, secondary compilations, and inferences drawn from neighbors' survey lines. None is anchored to her husband by an extant marriage record or primary document. Four generations of Sutherland women moved across the American frontier, raised families, and built homesteads, yet the record preserves them as shadows behind the men who signed the deeds. They belong together in a single reckoning.

Where the Record Ends

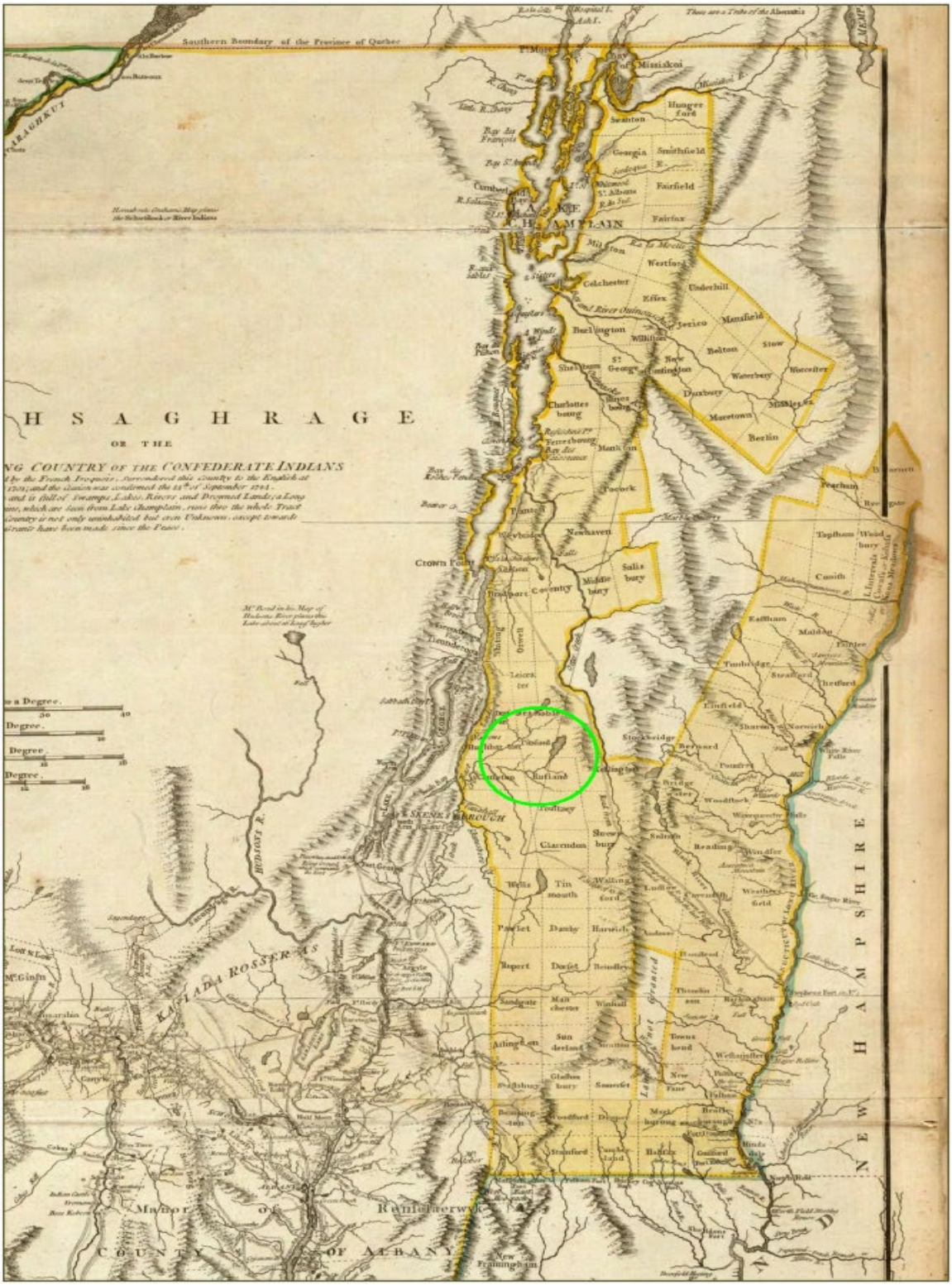
Jane Sutherland came tantalizingly close to the documentary world that would have treated her differently. Had she survived only a few years longer, the 1850 census would have written “Jane Cooley” on its own line with her age and birthplace beside it. Instead, she disappeared during the last years of the older enumeration system, after a lifetime in which the record had usually reached her only through her father, her husband, or the household in which she lived. Her mother Amy Carroll, her grandmother Mary Germond, and her great-grandmother Hannah Avery are still more difficult to recover. Their husbands left deeds, mortgages, tax lists, lawsuits, militia rolls, and account books. The women are there too, but usually just beyond the edge of the paper.

And that is where Jane’s biography has to end. We can place her at Sutherland Falls with her father, beside Noah Cooley in Pittsford, on Ridge Road in Niagara County, in Newfane, and finally among her children in Lenawee County. We can narrow the years in which she died, but we cannot give her a death date, a grave, or a voice that no surviving document preserves. To go farther would be to do what this history has tried not to do from the beginning: turn a reasonable possibility into a fact. The silence is not an invitation to invent. It is the final evidence the record leaves us.

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Appendix 1

Map of New Hampshire Grants

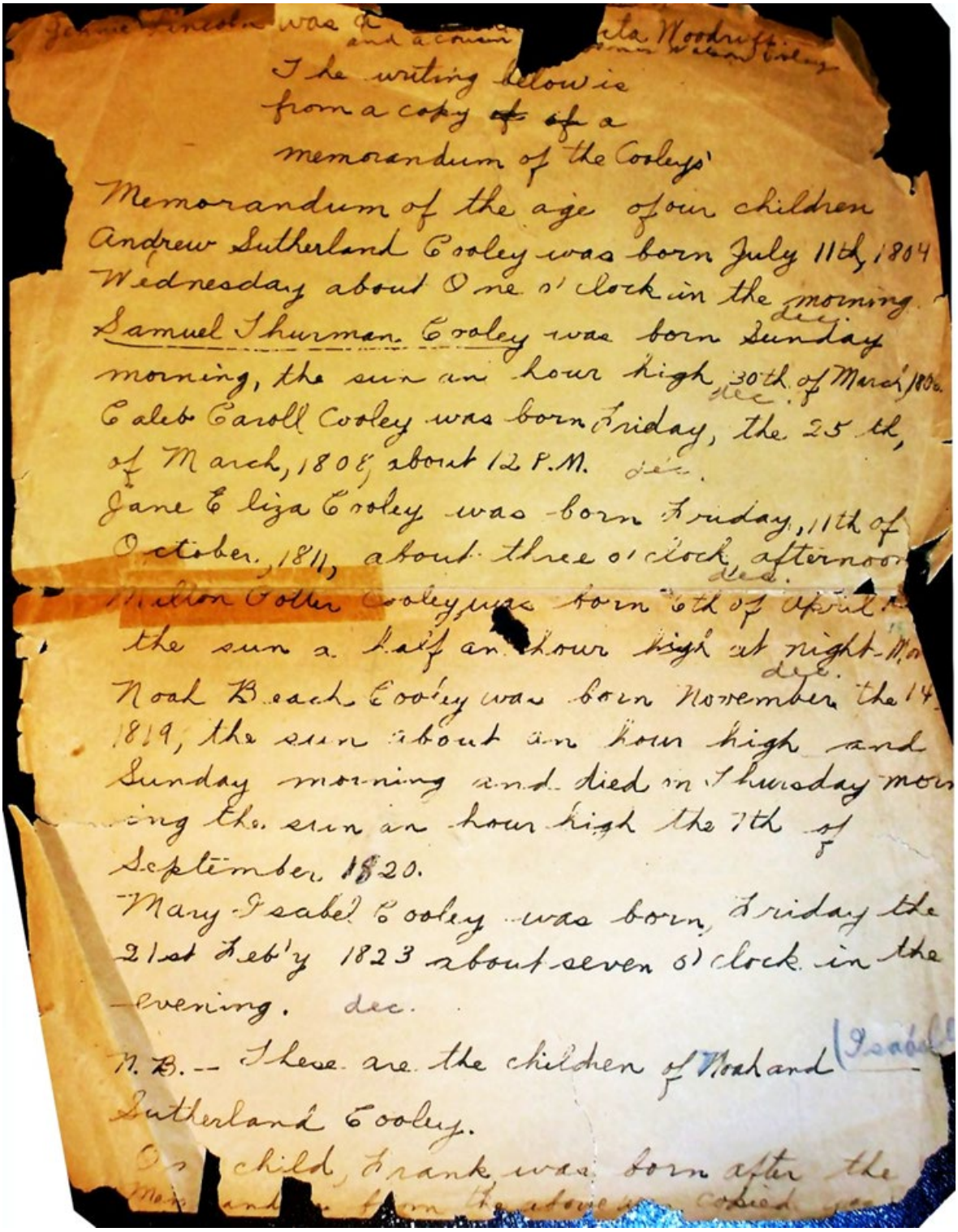


Pittsford and Rutland circled in green

Appendix 2

Memorandum of the Age of our Children

Jennie Lincoln was a [?] –ila Woodruff / And a cousin [?] James Watson Cooley



The writing below is
from a copy of a
memorandum of the Cooleys'

Memorandum of the age of our children

Andrew Sutherland Cooley was born July 11th, 1804 Wednesday about One o'clock in the morning.

Samuel Thurman Cooley was born Sunday morning, the sun an hour high, 30th of March 180[illegible]

Caleb Carroll Cooley was born Friday, the 25th of March, 180[illegible] about 12 P.M.

Jane Eliza Cooley was born Friday, 11th of October, 181[illegible], about three o'clock afternoon

Milton Potter Cooley was born 6th of April [illegible] the sun a half an hour high at night. M[illegible]

Noah Beach Cooley was born November the 14th 1819, the sun about an hour high and Sunday morning and died on Thursday morning the sun an hour high the 7th of September 1820.

Mary Isabel Cooley was born Friday the 21st Feb'y 1823 about seven o'clock in the evening.

N. B. -- These are the children of Noah and (Isabel) Sutherland Cooley.

One child, Frank was born after the Mem[illegible] from the above was copied [illegible]

Many thanks to Sally Merriman who made this invaluable document available.

Appendix 3

Pages 547 and 548 from the Cooley Genealogy for Noah Cooley and Jane Sutherland.

309 SAMUEL COOLEY[6]

(*Benjamin III*[5], *II*[4], *I*[3], *Daniel*[2], *Benjamin*[1]), s. Benjamin III and Ruth (Beach), No. **280**, b. Nov. 17, 1775, Pittsford, Vt.; removed to New York State, where he lived for a time, and in 1832 removed to Michigan; m. Oct. 5, 1797, Pittsford, Polly Dike, da. Jonathan and Esther (Barnard), who had settled in Pittsford in 1781, and who came there from Coventry, Conn. They lived in Pittsford for three years, then removed to Chittenden, Vt.

10 Children[7], 1st born in Pittsford:

i IRENE, Aug. 29, 1798.
ii ASENATH.
iii NOAH.
iv SAMUEL II.
v JONATHAN.
vi WILLIAM.
vii BENJAMIN.
viii CHESTER.
ix MARY.
x DIKE, Aug. 25, 1819, Cambria, N. Y. [Mrs. Charlotte (Cooley) Lathrop of Chicago is a descendant, though no information has been secured through repeated inquiries.]

310 AZARIAH COOLEY[6]

(*Benjamin III*[5], *II*[4], *I*[3], *Daniel*[2], *Benjamin*[1]), s. Benjamin III and Ruth (Beach), No. **280**, b. Apr. 7, 1780, Pittsford, Vt.; d. there Sept. 5, 1852. He lived on the Benjamin Cooley[5] homestead in Pittsford, and married, about 1800, Lydia Huntley.

3 Children[7], b. Pittsford:

i REUBEN, about 1802.
357 ii BENJAMIN, about 1804, p. 456.
iii LEWIS, about 1808; d. Oct. 2, 1831, ae. 23, prob. unm.

311 NOAH COOLEY[6]

(*Benjamin III*[5], *II*[4], *I*[3], *Daniel*[2], *Benjamin*[1]), s. Benjamin III and Ruth (Beach), No. **280**, b. July 2, 1782,

Pittsford, Vt.; d. Jan. 11, 1852, in the "Western Country"; m. Jan. 24, 1804, Jane Sutherland, da. Peter, b. Aug. 24, 1787, d. July 4, 1854 (*History of Pittsford*). Noah Cooley was a Methodist. In Pittsford he located on the west side of Otter Creek when he married, but stayed only a few years and then moved West.

7 Children[7], b. Pittsford and in the "Western Country," place not known, prob. Michigan:

i ANDREW, about 1804.
ii SAMUEL, about 1806.
358 iii CALEB C., 1808.
iv JAMES G., 1810.
v MILTON, 1815.
vi MARY, 1823; d. 1851.
vii BENJAMIN, 1825.

312 REUBEN COOLEY II[6]

(*Reuben I*[5], *Benjamin II*[4], *I*[3], *Daniel*[2], *Benjamin*[1]), s. Reuben and Sarah ——, No. **281**, b. Mar. 24, 1780, Greenwich, Mass.; d. 1866; m. Oct. 10, 1805, Cynthia Evans, b. 1786, d. 1862.

10 Children[7], b. prob. Greenwich and Pittsford, Vt.:

359 i REUBEN III, Oct. 11, 1806.
* ii CYNTHIA, May 6, 1808. *See below.*
iii LYMAN, June 5, 1810; d. Apr. 17, 1871.
iv ELIZABETH, July 21, 1812.
v MARILDA, June 5, 1815; m. Perry Rogers.
360 vi SOLOMON, Nov. 3, 1817.
* vii REUBA, Dec. 19, 1820. *See below.*
viii AZUBA, Dec. 19, 1820; d. y.
ix HIRAM, Nov. 8, 1825; m. and res. Demark (*sic*), Ohio; his wife died young.
x CATHERINE, Dec. 4, 1828; m. Nelson Van Slike.

ii CYNTHIA COOLEY[7]

da. Reuben II, No. **312** above, b. May 6, 1808, prob. Pittsford, Vt.; m. Jan. 7, 1826, Henry Reuben Davis of Albany, N. Y.

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Appendix 4

Analysis of Samuel T. Cooley's monument in Goodrich Cemetery, Hudson, Hillsdale Co, Michigan

Goodrich Cemetery, 4½ miles west of Town of Pittsford, 1½ miles east of Town of Hudson, north side of road.

Inscriptions Samuel T Cooley, Electa F. Woodruff, Lydia, and Woodruff (son died in childhood)

Monument location: 41.85508°N 84.39094°W, data taken August 7th 2008 at 15:27 by Daniel Berton Cooley

West side	North side	East side	South side
			(faces M34)
Samuel T Cooley	LYDIA	Blank	
DIED	WIFE OF		WOODRUFF
Jan. 4, 1892	S.T. COOLEY		Son of
Age	DIED		S.T. & E.F. Cooley
85y 9m	Nov. 19, 1887		DIED
& 4 Ds	age		Sep 6, 1841
	73 yrs 2 mo 9 d		Age
Electa F.			4y & 5D
His Wife			
DIED			
Apr 5 1843			
Age			
36 years			

Calculation of birth dates

Samuel T: 31 Mar 1806 (note: "Memo of the Age..." has a birthdate of 30 Mar 1806)
Electa F: 6 Apr 1806 if she died the day before her birthday (tomorrow she'd be 37)
to 5 Apr 1807 if she died on her birthday (just turned 36)
Lydia: 10 Sep 1814
Woodruff: 1 Sep 1837

Three individual stones appear to have been moved from their original sites close beside the monument to places farther away. On the west side, the Woodruff stone is leaning on its side and Lydia's stone is on its side. On the east side about four feet away is either Samuel's or Electa's. I didn't attempt to analyze these three stones.

There once was something atop the monument, now gone except for an anchor bolt.

Daniel Berton Cooley, 2008

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Appendix 5

Goodrich Cemetery in Hillsdale County and Maple Grove Cemetery in Lenawee County

Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties Michigan showing both Goodrich Cemetery in Hillsdale County and Maple Grove Cemetery in Lenawee County. Samuel Thurman Cooley and family are buried in Goodrich Cemetery and Caleb Carroll Cooley family in Maple Grove Cemetery.



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Appendix 6

1790 Census Analysis for Benjamin$_5$ Cooley-Ruth Beach Family

M <16, 3; M >16, 2; F, 5 (no age brackets)
Total household 5 M, 5 F = 10 persons, (fifth female can't be accounted for).
Ages from estimated enumeration June 1790

Males
Benjamin$_5$ Sr b. Apr 1747 age 43
Benjamin6 Jr b. Jan 1774 age 16
Samuel b. Nov 1775 age 14
Azariah b. Apr 1780 age 10
Noah b. Jul 1782 age 7

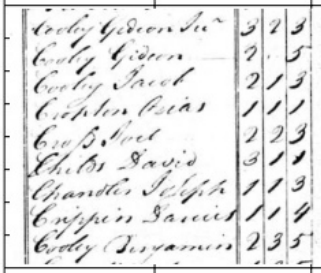
Females
Ruth Beach b. abt 1756 age abt 34
Ruth Jr b. Dec 1777 age 12
Mary b. Jan 1786 age 4
Naomi (2nd) b. Oct 1788 age 1
---------- 1790
Eunice b. 16 Apr 1791
Susannah b. 2 Apr 1793 d. 19 Apr 1793
Dorothy b. 17 May 1794

ancestry.com **1790 United States Federal Census**

For more family history charts and forms, visit www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm

State: _____ Call Number/URL:_____ Enumeration Date: _____

county	city	page	names of heads of families	free white males of 16 years & upwards, including heads of families	free white males under 16 years	free white females including heads of families	all other free persons	slaves
Rutland	Pittsford	228	Cooley, Gideon Jr	3	2	3		
			Cooley, Gideon	2		5		
			Cooley, Jacob	2	1	3		
			Cooley, Benjamin	2	3	5		

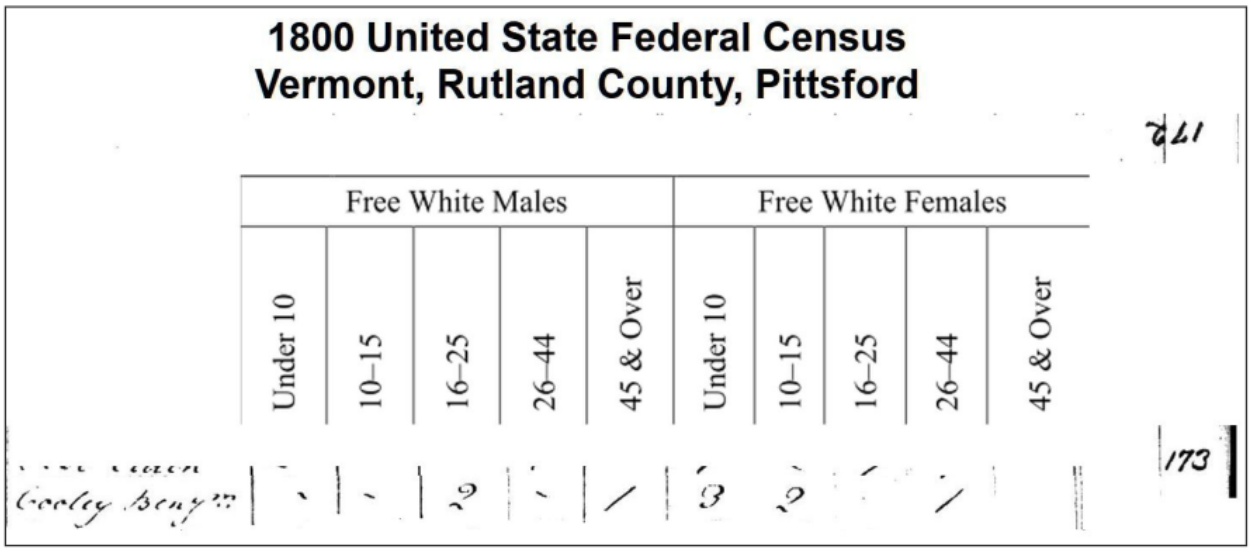


©The Generations Network 2007 To search the 1790 census online, visit www.ancestry.com Ancestry Census Form 001

Appendix 7

1800 US Census Analysis for Benjamin$_5$ Cooley-Ruth Beach Family

In the 1800 United States Census the Benjamin$_5$ Cooley family was enumerated as having nine members.

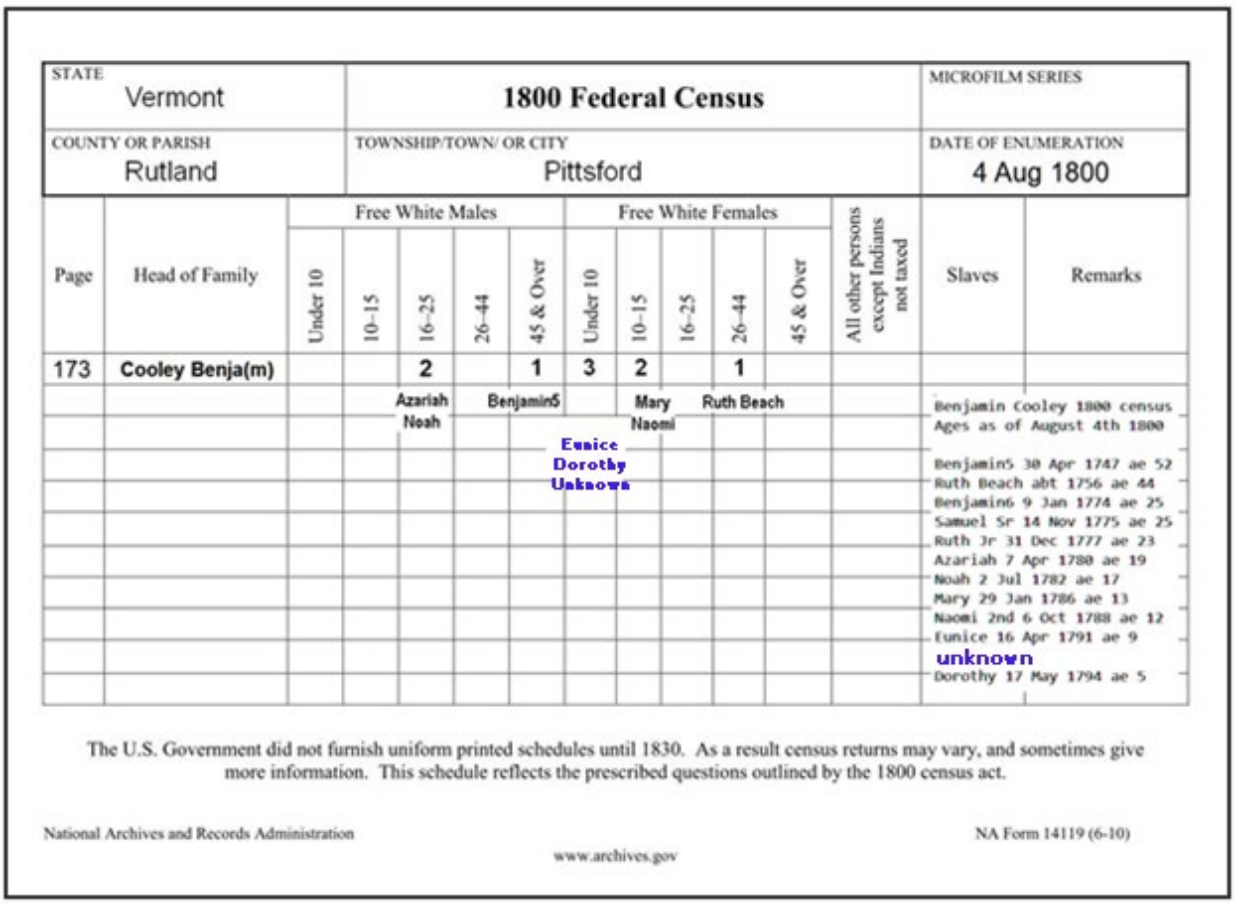


1800 United State Federal Census
Vermont, Rutland County, Pittsford

171

	Free White Males					Free White Females				
	Under 10	10–15	16–25	26–44	45 & Over	Under 10	10–15	16–25	26–44	45 & Over
Cooley Benja			2		1	3	2		1	

173



STATE	1800 Federal Census	MICROFILM SERIES
Vermont		
COUNTY OR PARISH: Rutland	TOWNSHIP/TOWN/ OR CITY: Pittsford	DATE OF ENUMERATION: 4 Aug 1800

Page	Head of Family	Free White Males					Free White Females					All other persons except Indians not taxed	Slaves	Remarks
		Under 10	10–15	16–25	26–44	45 & Over	Under 10	10–15	16–25	26–44	45 & Over			
173	Cooley Benja(m)			2		1	3	2		1				
				Azariah Noah		Benjamin5		Mary Naomi		Ruth Beach				Benjamin Cooley 1800 census Ages as of August 4th 1800
						Eunice Dorothy Unknown								Benjamin5 30 Apr 1747 ae 52 Ruth Beach abt 1756 ae 44 Benjamin6 9 Jan 1774 ae 25 Samuel Sr 14 Nov 1775 ae 25 Ruth Jr 31 Dec 1777 ae 23 Azariah 7 Apr 1780 ae 19 Noah 2 Jul 1782 ae 17 Mary 29 Jan 1786 ae 13 Naomi 2nd 6 Oct 1788 ae 12 Eunice 16 Apr 1791 ae 9 unknown Dorothy 17 May 1794 ae 5

The U.S. Government did not furnish uniform printed schedules until 1830. As a result census returns may vary, and sometimes give more information. This schedule reflects the prescribed questions outlined by the 1800 census act.

National Archives and Records Administration — NA Form 14119 (6-10)

www.archives.gov

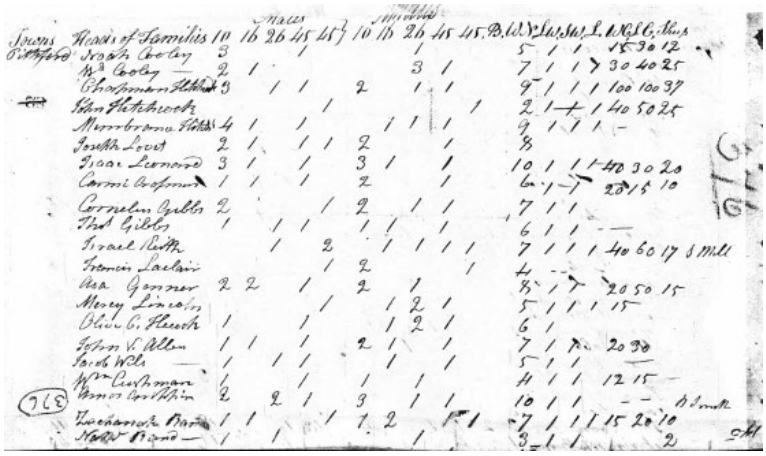
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Appendix 8

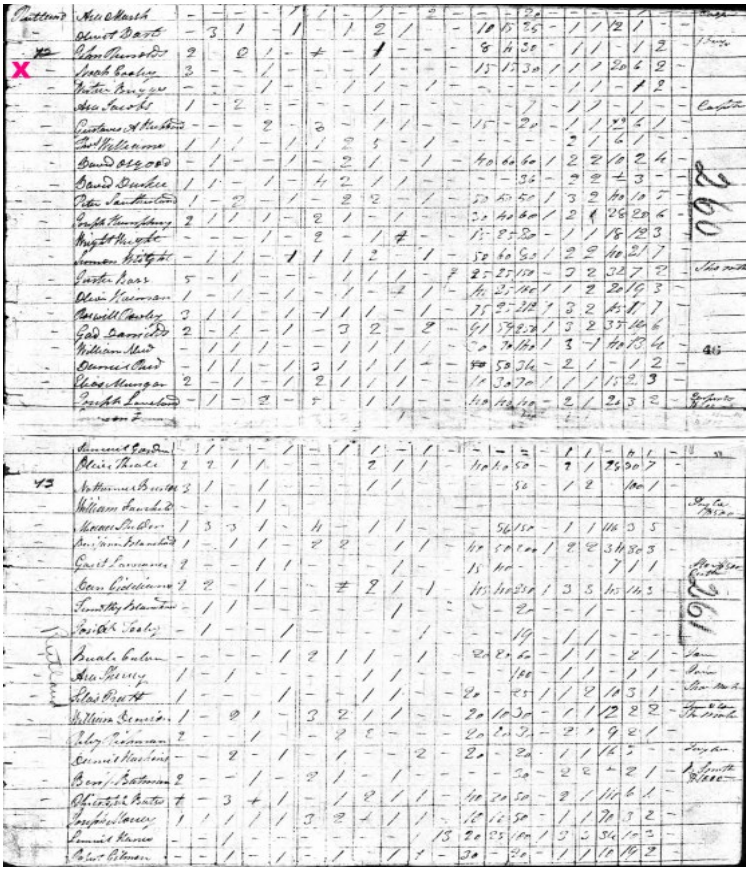
1810 Census Analysis for Noah Cooley-Jane Sutherland Family

The Noah Cooley household was enumerated twice in the 1810 U.S. census. First in the Town of Pittsford and second in the Town of Rutland. The two enumerators asked somewhat different questions in the optional columns to the right.

1810 US Census, Vermont, Rutland County, Town of Pittsford.
Jane Sutherland Cooley, age 22, was miscategorized into the 26 and older column.



1810 US Census, Vermont, Rutland County, Town of Rutland.
Enumerator's categories unclear on this page. The only female would be Jane Sutherland Cooley.



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Appendix 9

New York-Massachusetts Contested Territory in Western Country

The territorial dispute between Massachusetts and New York over lands in what is now western New York, including Genesee County, was a complex issue rooted in overlapping colonial charters. Massachusetts' charter granted it lands extending westward without a defined boundary, while New York's charter encompassed territories that overlapped with Massachusetts' claims. This led to both states asserting rights over the same lands.

To resolve this conflict, the two states entered into the Treaty of Hartford on December 16, 1786. Under this agreement, Massachusetts ceded its claim to the sovereignty and jurisdiction over the disputed lands to New York. In return, New York recognized Massachusetts' preemptive right to purchase the land from the Native American nations, meaning Massachusetts had the exclusive right to negotiate land purchases from the indigenous inhabitants, despite the land being under New York's jurisdiction.

Following the treaty, Massachusetts sold these preemptive rights to private individuals and groups. Notably, in 1788, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham purchased these rights from Massachusetts for approximately $1,000,000. They subsequently negotiated with the Seneca Nation to acquire lands east of the Genesee River. However, due to financial difficulties, Phelps and Gorham were unable to complete their payments, leading to the return of the unsold lands' rights to Massachusetts. In 1791, Massachusetts sold these rights to Robert Morris, who later sold portions to the Holland Land Company, leading to the development known as the Holland Land Purchase.

Therefore, the Treaty of Hartford in 1786 effectively ended Massachusetts' authority to sell land within New York's jurisdiction by transferring sovereignty to New York while allowing Massachusetts to retain and subsequently sell the preemptive rights to purchase land from Native American nations. This agreement clarified the boundaries and resolved the competing claims, facilitating organized settlement and development in the region.

To Summarize the Relationships:

Entity	Role
Massachusetts	Claimed land; got preemptive rights via Treaty of Hartford (1786); sold those rights to Phelps & Gorham, then Morris
New York	Held sovereign jurisdiction from 1786 onward—could govern and tax the area
Phelps & Gorham	Bought from Massachusetts; extinguished Native title east of Genesee; defaulted
Robert Morris	Bought remaining rights; sold large tract to Holland Land Company
Holland Land Company	Conducted land sales west of the Genesee River under New York jurisdiction

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Appendix 10

Overland Routes from Vermont to the Holland Land Purchase (1790s–1810s)

As settlers moved westward from New England into the interior of New York and beyond, they followed well-trodden but rugged corridors. These overland routes, originally carved out by Native Americans and improved incrementally during and after the American Revolution, became critical arteries of migration during the early national period. The journey from Pittsford, Vermont to the northern frontiers of the Holland Land Purchase was neither direct nor easy. Yet, families like the Beaches, Andrew Sutherland, and eventually Noah and Samuel Cooley made this trek during the first two decades of the 19th century.

The Departure Point: Pittsford, Vermont

Pittsford, situated in Rutland County near the spine of the Green Mountains, was well connected within the Champlain-Hudson corridor. By the 1790s, a settler leaving Pittsford struck either southwest toward Bennington or westward toward Whitehall (Skeeneborough). Either option brought the traveler across the New York border to connect with the primary trunk lines extending west from the Hudson River valleys at Albany, Troy, or Lansingburgh.

The Four Primary Westward Routes

• **Genesee Corridor and Old Niagara Road (The Mail Route)**

From Albany, this path followed the Mohawk River Valley westward along the Great Genesee Road through Utica and Rome. Beyond the Genesee River, this corridor extended northwest into the Holland Land Purchase as the Old Niagara Road. This was the route utilized by Philip Beach between 1798 and 1810 to carry the frontier mail from Batavia to Fort Niagara. It bypassed Buffalo entirely, leading directly through the limestone escarpment to the early family homesteads at Molyneaux Corners in Cambria and down to Lewiston.

• **Old Niagara Road (The Northern Overland Route)**

As settlers crossed the Genesee River near modern Rochester, they increasingly turned due northwest to hit the Old Niagara Road (later Ridge Road or modern Route 104). Following a natural, elevated gravel ridge left by ancient lake waters, this trail stayed dry and free of the deep mud and malaria-prone swamps characterizing the routes farther south. This became the most efficient overland pipeline for the later migrations of Sutherlands and the Cooleys as they joined the Beach cluster near Molyneaux Corners.

• **Seneca Turnpike and Southern Detour (Post-1800)**

Chartered in 1800, the Seneca Turnpike greatly improved travel from Utica through Geneva to Canandaigua with superior grading and bridge supports. Settlers chose this route if they needed to conduct business at the main Holland Land Company office in Batavia first. From Batavia, however, reaching upper Niagara County required a brutal northbound push along primitive company bridle paths through the dense Tonawanda swamp country.

• **Lake Ontario Water Route**

For families transporting heavy farming tools, cast-iron stoves, and household goods, overland wagon ruts were often avoided by striking north from the Mohawk Corridor to the port of Oswego. From Oswego, families took lake schooners or open boats westward along the Lake Ontario shoreline, landing directly at early frontier ports like Olcott (Newfane) or Youngstown, just miles from Lewiston.
moved beyond the western boundaries of New York. Within the HLP, however, township and range terms were used, but the system was private, lacking the federal legal framework of PLSS regions like Ohio or Indiana.

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Historical Context: Land Grids and Motivations

Land hunger, declining farm prospects in Vermont, and deep-seated kinship alliances drove this New England chain migration westward. These settlers moved from the traditional town structures of New England into a privately surveyed township-and-range system managed exclusively by the Holland Land Company. Unlike migrations to Ohio or Indiana territories, which were governed by the federal Public Land Survey System (PLSS), transactions within western New York were governed by private land articles, relying on the speculative ambitions and designs of company agents like Joseph Ellicott.

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Flick, Alexander C., ed. *History of the State of New York: Volume V*, *Conquering the Wilderness*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1934.

Details the overland routes, turnpike charters, and early pioneer settlements across central and western New York during the post-Revolutionary era.

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Livsey, Karen E. *Western New York Land Transactions 1804–1824*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1991.

Provides indexed abstracts of land company articles, sales records, and early pioneer deeds recorded across the Holland Land Purchase.

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Appendix 11

The Ravages of War: Targeting Civilians in the Anglo-American Conflict

By David and Jeanne T. Heidler of the National Park Service

https://www.nps.gov/articles/ravages-of-war.htm

The retaliatory raids of the British in Niagara County began in December 1813. They claimed it all began in April 1813 when Brigadier General Zebulon Montgomery Pike led a naval-borne force across Lake Ontario to attack Upper Canada's capital of York (modern Toronto). Pike prohibited wanton destruction and looting, but debris from an exploded powder magazine killed him, and his enraged American men turned their anger on the town. What they could not pilfer, they burned.

Worse was to come. When Americans abandoned Fort George at the mouth of the Niagara December 10th 1813, they burned the nearby village of Newark (sometimes Niagara-on-the-Lake). Brigadier General George McClure of the New York State militia gave the order to burn the town - a shocking act carried out without warning during a heavy snowfall. Most of the burning was done by the Canadian Volunteers, a force of American farmers who had settled in Canada but joined the U.S. invaders. "The burning of the town in which a number of old and infirm persons were left to perish in the snow," the British commanding officer wrote, was an act "unexampled in barbarity."

General Sir Gordon Drummond soon avenged Newark with an attack on Fort Niagara in which British soldiers bayoneted Americans as they were surrendering. The British rampagedall along the Niagara River burning Lewiston then turning inward on Ridge Road laying to waste homes almost to Molyneaux Corners. (John Beach's farm was burned to the ground). The result was a desolate landscape of burned-out farms and deserted villages.

Finally, on Dec. 30th 1813 they took Buffalo, as most of its panicked citizens fled in the freezing cold. Over the next three days, the British and their First Nations allies, primarily Mohawk, burned every dwelling in the village, except the small house of Widow Margaret St. John where she lived with her daughters.

Citing the cruel behavior of the Americans at Newark, the British justified pitiless war elsewhere. Their raiding tactics in Chesapeake Bay in 1813 and 1814 and the torching of Washington's public buildings in August 1814, including the Capitol and Executive Mansion, were supposed to even the score for York and Newark. But the raid on the capital was of little strategic importance, and world opinion frowned on what seemed an act of petulant vandalism.



The New York Public Library Digital Collections

The burning of Buffalo during the War of 1812, an engraving from Pictorial History of America, by Samuel G. Goodrich, published in 1847.

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Appendix 12
Evolution of Western New York Counties

Before European and American jurisdictions, Western New York was the ancestral homeland of the Six Nations (Iroquois Confederacy), with the Seneca Nation serving as the "Keepers of the Western Door" across the Genesee and Niagara River valleys. Following the American Revolution, overlapping colonial land claims were resolved by the 1786 Treaty of Hartford, wherein Massachusetts ceded political sovereignty to New York while retaining the pre-emptive right to purchase the soil. New York then systematically purchased native lands and established its own civil divisions, evolving westward from the original parent county:

1. **Albany County** (the original parent county)
   Erected: **November 1, 1672** under British colonial rule
   Scope: Encompassed the entire northern and western portions of the Province of New York—virtually everything north and west of Ulster and Dutchess counties, effectively extending westward across the entire province to the undefined frontier.
2. **Tryon County** (Split from Albany)
   Erected: **March 12, 1772**
   Scope: Split off from Albany County as tensions mounted prior to the Revolution. It covered all of New York west of a north-south line roughly passing through present-day Schenectady.
3. **Montgomery County** (contiguous with Tryon)
   Renamed: **April 2, 1784**
   Scope: Following the American Revolution to eliminate the loyalist connotation of Gov William Tryon
4. **Ontario County** (Split from Montgomery)
   Erected **January 27, 1789**
   Scope: Took in all of New York State west of the old pre-Revolutionary property line (roughly the modern eastern boundaries of Cayuga and Seneca counties out to the Niagara River and Lake Erie)
5. **Genesee County** (Split from Ontario)
   Erected: **March 30, 1802**
   Scope: Split to accommodate the rapid settlement of the Holland Land Purchase. Genesee originally encompassed all of New York State west of the Genesee River. Initial county seat was established at Batavia.
6. **Niagara County** (Split from Genesee)
   Erected: **March 11, 1808** (effective organization beginning around 1808–1810).
   Scope: Formed from the western portion of Genesee County, initially encompassing everything west of the Transit Meridian (the line running south from the mouth of Johnson Creek on Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania border). Covered present counties Niagara and Erie and parts of modern Orlean**s** and Chautauqua counties
7. **Niagara County** (Subsequent Division)
   Divided: **April 2, 1821**
   Scope: The territory south of Tonawanda Creek was set off to form Erie County, leaving Niagara County with its modern borders (bounded by Lake Ontario to the north, the Niagara River to the west, Orleans County to the east, and Erie County to the south)

References

- Colonial Laws of New York from the Year 1664 to the Revolution (Albany: James B. Lyon, 1894), Vol. V, pp. 344–348 (Tryon).
- New York Session Laws, 7th (Montgomery), 12th (Ontario), 25th (Genesee), 31st (Niagara), & 44th (Erie) Sessions.
- David McAdam et al., History of Niagara County, New York (New York: Miltimore Lewis, 1921).

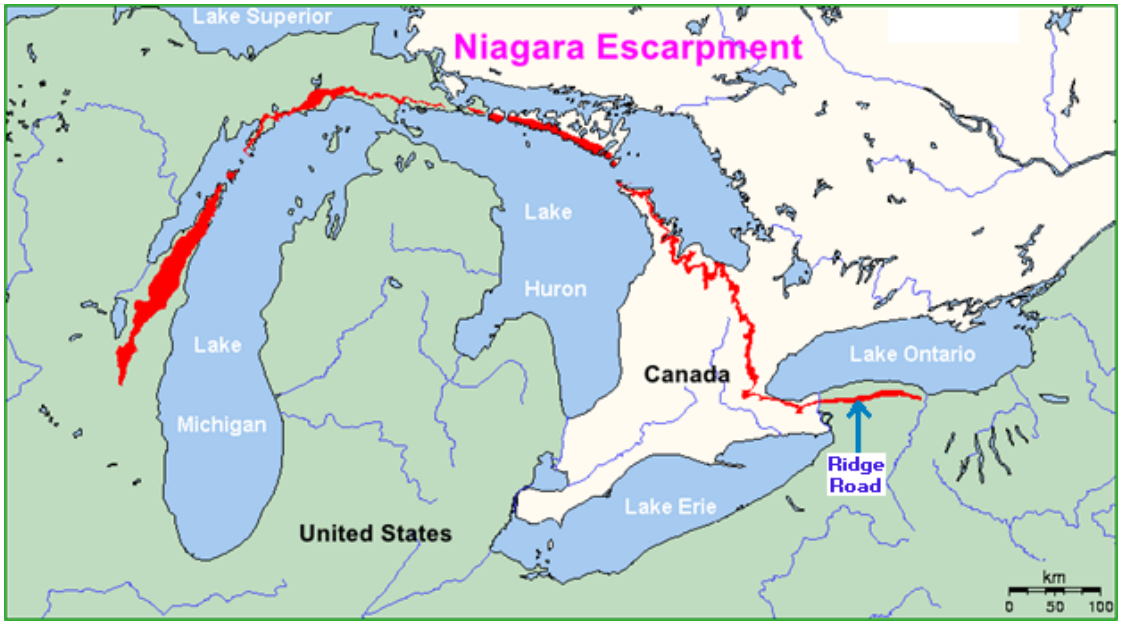
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Appendix 13
The Niagara Escarpment

The Niagara Escarpment[a] is a prominent geological cuesta/escarpment (a long steep slope or cliff at the edge of a plateau or ridge) that stretches more than 1,000 kilometers (over 650 miles) forming a long, sinuous ridge running from eastern Wisconsin through the UP of Michigan, Ontario, and western New York where the escarpment manifests as a dramatic elevation change, rising abruptly above the relatively flat Lake Ontario plain, and plays a crucial role in the region's natural and human history. It is composed largely of dolostone[b] which resists erosion better than the softer shales and sandstones beneath it. This differential erosion is what gives the escarpment its characteristic cliff-like profile.

One of the most notable features of the escarpment in western New York is its role in Lockport, a city whose very name and origin are tied to this formation. The Erie Canal,[c] constructed in the early 19th century to link the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, encountered its most formidable topographic obstacle at the Niagara Escarpment. Engineers solved this challenge at Lockport by building a series of five locks, an impressive engineering feat at the time, to allow boats to ascend or descend the 60-foot elevation difference. This section of the canal was pivotal in enabling continuous waterborne commerce between the eastern seaboard and the American interior, cementing New York's rise as a commercial powerhouse.

Though it is most famously associated with Niagara Falls, where the Niagara River plunges over its edge, the escarpment's reach is vast. It arcs north through Ontario and continues west through the upper Midwest. Its long exposure and resistance to erosion have also created unique microclimates and habitats, and in some areas, such as near Lockport, the exposed rock has influenced not only canal construction but also quarrying and viticulture.



[a] Rayburn, Alan. *Naming Canada: Stories about Canadian Place Names*. University of Toronto Press, 2001

[b] Brett, Carlton E. and Baird, Gordon C. *Niagara Escarpment: Silurian Paleoenvironments, Tectonics, and Erosion*. Geological Society of America Field Guide, 1997. Dolostone is a sedimentary carbonate rock that contains a high percentage of the mineral dolomite, CaMg(CO3)2

[c] Shaw, Ronald E. *Erie Water West: A History of the Erie Canal, 1792–1854*. University Press of Kentucky, 1966

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Appendix 14

Fanny Sutherland's Diary

SHORT DIARY ENTRIES, 1818

Fanny Sutherland of Rutland, Vermont, entered a few remarks in the manuscript journal of her father, Peter Sutherland. The journal covers the years 1792–1810, and is now in Department of Special Collections, Bailey-Howe Library, University of Vermont, large bound manuscripts.

Rutland Jan the 1 1818

Thurs 1 Went to school to day and in the evening went to meting had a good meting but a tiresome walk

Fri 2 My parents went to Sutbury to quarterly meting

Tus 6 Returned home – I went to Mrs Cooley's had a verry good visit and returned in the evening

Thur 8 Went to Mr Rice's with a one horse waggon

Fri 9 Dorothy Cooley come here stayed all night and returned home on satterday

Mon 12 Mr Thayre and his wife came here he became bail for my father on an exicution and for the same drove away our last cow ———————

O adverse fortune how dost thou frown on all my fathers endeavours! O turn thy course and leet him live at ease the remainder of his days and at last die in peace ———————————————

Tus 13 my Father sat out for Pennsylvania with a load of chains to try to get mony to settle some of his debts

O ye powers above make his Journey prosperous permit him to return again to his disconsolate family and may plenty once more aleviate his cares _____

Wed 14 Matilda Daniels visited me in the evening

Fri 16 went to Mr Capen's in the evening had a verry good visit and returned home

Sater 17 Went to school S.A.M. was called up had a long debate with the Master about her being gilty but nothing could be proved she was refered till afternoon after noon E.S. was called up for danceing was threatened to have both her hans blistered but was ordered to take her seat and wate while S.A.M. came to trial. accordingly at night S. and E. ware ordered to set on the forward seat. S. made some odd replies which made N.L. laugh for which he was immediately called up ordered to take off his coat and vest and for the same had three large sticks worn up about him. after this passionate action of the Master's he sat down said a few words to the school and then dismissed it — for my own part I came home verry much displeased with the proceedings of the day

O unguarded passion! how frequently dost thou lead the most judicious into errors!

Tus 20 evening went to Conference and returned to Mr Lovelands

Wed 21 cut and basted a mantle for Phylinda and one for Betsey

Thur 22 made a pair of pantaloons for Mr Loveland

Feb the 1

Sun Went to Mr Capen's in the evening had some singing and returned home

Mon 2 the two Miss Capenses and Miss Daniels spent the evening with me

Fri 6 went O Mrs Cooley's. the 7 went to the Village on business returned to Mr Smiths spent the afternoon and returned to Mrs Cooley's

Sun 8 attended the Methodist meting in Pittsford heard Mr Baker preach

(*end*)

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Appendix 15
Girls' Schooling in Colonial New England

In colonial New England, the education of girls was shaped by Puritan theology, domestic expectations, and social class. While the *Massachusetts General School Act of 1647* (the "Old Deluder Satan" Act) mandated that towns establish public schools to ensure children could read the Bible, "children" in practice largely meant boys. For girls, formal educational opportunities were highly restricted, informal, and generally tied to the home and homemaking.

For most young girls (and very young boys), formal learning began at a Dame School. These were private, informal neighborhood classes run by a local widow or housewife in her own kitchen or parlor. Girls were taught basic reading, religious catechism, and social manners. While boys also attended to learn the basics before moving on to town grammar schools, girls' education usually stopped here.

Reading and writing were viewed as entirely separate, gender-segregated skills. Because Puritan doctrine required every individual to read the Scriptures for their own salvation, female literacy in reading was relatively high and actively encouraged. Writing was considered a utility for trade, law, and public life, spheres reserved for men. Consequently, girls were rarely taught to write.

For a young colonial girl, her needlework was the ultimate test of her education. Creating a sampler was not merely a craft; it was a school exhibition. On a piece of linen, a girl stitched the alphabet, numbers, religious verses, and her name. This exercise proved she had mastered the alphabet, reading, and the fine motor skills required to mark the family's linens and clothing.

Vermont

Because Vermont was settled later than the coastal areas of New England, not experiencing a major population boom until the late 18th century, its schooling system bypassed some of the entrenched, century-old Puritan structures of the Massachusetts and Connecticut colonies.

While young girls in early Vermont still faced many of the same domestic expectations and limitations as their older counterparts, the state’s unique political identity and late development led to a few distinct differences.

In the late 18th century, only a modest portion of Vermont women could write, but by the early decades of the 19th century, female literacy had surged to near-universal levels. Despite this rapid growth, the education girls received before 1800 was almost entirely designed to make them proficient housekeepers. Dame schools and home instruction remained the norm for young girls, while the formal "town schools" funded under the 1777 Vermont Constitution were predominantly attended by boys.

As Vermont’s agricultural economy grew, a distinct seasonal rhythm emerged in its district schoolhouses. The winter terms were attended by older boys who were free from farm work. They were taught by male "schoolmasters". The summer terms became the "woman’s school" since the boys were needed in the fields. These terms were taught by female teachers and attended primarily by young children and girls.

In Vermont after statehood (1791) the post-Revolutionary "Republican Motherhood" ideology was taking hold. The state became a progressive testing ground for advanced female education. In 1800 Miss Ida Strong opened a girls-only school in Middlebury, the first school in Vermont designed specifically with a progressive curriculum for young women. In 1814, pioneering educator Emma Willard opened the Middlebury Female Seminary. She boldly defied the conventional curriculum (which favored music and sewing over academics), teaching her young women high-level mathematics, history, and philosophy right from her home.

When county-level secondary schools began opening, Vermont broke from traditional gender segregation. Thetford Academy (established in 1819) admitted both boys and girls from its very first day of classes, a rarity for early secondary schools in America.

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In the 1830s and 1840s, as Vermont worked to establish a centralized public school system, reformers faced a major hurdle: convincing frugal town voters to pay school taxes. Their solution was to hire women who were paid a fraction of what male teachers commanded ($13/mo vs $5/mo). While this wage gap was deeply unfair, it created a massive demand for educated women. To meet this need, Vermont schools such as Castleton Seminary and Cavendish Girls School began offering "normal" (teacher-training) courses. By 1840, female enrollment in Vermont schools equaled or surpassed male enrollment, and by 1880, 80% of Vermont's teachers were women.

Jane Sutherland at Sutherland Falls

Jane probably began her education about 1792 in one of the small neighborhood schools serving Sutherland Falls. Vermont had authorized towns to establish local school districts a decade earlier, and later accounts remembered an early schoolhouse at the Falls as well as instruction conducted in private homes. There would have been little reason for a young child to make the long journey into Rutland village.

Her schooling was more likely close to home and seasonal. Girls and younger children commonly attended the summer term, when older boys were needed for farm work, while winter schooling tended to favor boys released from agricultural labor. In such a school Jane would have been taught the elementary subjects of the day: reading, spelling, writing and, as she progressed, some arithmetic, although how many years she attended and how far she advanced cannot now be known.

Books were scarce, and instruction relied heavily upon recitation and repetition. Jane may have learned her letters and reading from the *New England Primer* or similar religious texts, while Noah Webster's American spelling books, first published in the 1780s, were rapidly becoming familiar in New England schools. Reading carried a strong moral and religious purpose as well as a practical one.

Girls did not generally enjoy the same opportunity as boys for prolonged or advanced education, but it would be going too far to suppose that Jane was taught merely to read and sign her name. Writing and elementary arithmetic were established parts of contemporary schooling, and the extent to which she mastered them depended more upon the schooling actually available to her, the length of her attendance, and her family's circumstances than upon any absolute prohibition against teaching them to girls.

Much of Jane's education nevertheless took place outside the schoolhouse. From her mother and other women of the household she would have learned the skills necessary to manage a New England home: sewing, mending, knitting and other needlework; spinning wool or flax where these were processed in the household; cooking at the hearth, preserving food, dairying, gardening, and caring for younger children.

Some girls also practiced their letters and needlework through samplers, although there is no evidence that Jane made one. Such domestic instruction was not an ornamental addition to her education. A household was an economic enterprise, and its mistress was expected to know how to produce, preserve, repair, and manage much of what the family required. Thus Jane's education probably combined the seasonal lessons of a neighborhood school with years of practical instruction at home, a preparation that she would soon put to use when she was married to Noah Cooley in 1804.

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Abbreviations

BADD – *Additional Beckwith Notes including Avery...Southerland...with miscellaneous historical data* by Frederick H. Beckwith, Stratford, Connecticut 1956
Barb - *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*. Vol. 1-55. Lorraine Cook, ed. Genealogical Publishing Co; Baltimore; 1994-2002
Beck – *The Beckwiths* by Paul Beckwith; Joel Munsell's Sons, Publishers; 1891
BGC - *Genealogical History of the Coomer Family for a period of about 180 years embracing six generations 1710 to 1892* by Benjamin G Coomer; W.H. Werkheiser & Sons, Flint, Michigan, 1893
Buck - *Eighteenth Century Documents of the Nine Partners Patent, Dutchess County, New York* by Clifford M Buck and William P McDermott; Gateway Press; Baltimore; 1979
CG – *The Descendants of Ensign Benjamin Cooley, an early settler of Springfield and Longmeadow, Massachusetts; and other members of the family in America;* by Mortimer Elwyn Cooley, Lyman Edgar Cooley, Ernest Linwood, compiled by Vivien Bulloch Keatley; Tuttle Publishing Co; Rutland, Vermont; 1941.
COM – *Descendants of Richard Coman of Salem Mass and Providence RI* by Shirley Louise Purtell Bickel and ed Helen Schatvet Ullmann; Newbury Street Press, Boston Mass, 2006
FIG - *Find A Grave* website; http://www.findagrave.com
Gale – *Proctor The Story of a Marble Town* by David C. Gale; Vermont Printing Company, Brattleboro, Vermont 1922
Hance – T*he History of Rutland Vermont 1761-1861* by Dawn D. Hance; Rutland Historical Society, Rutland Vermont; Academy Books, 1991
HLP – *Archives of the Holland Land Company 1789-1869*; SUNY Fredonia, Reed Library Archives and Special Collections; Digitized from microfilm August 2008, Amsterdam/NDR, The Hague and SUNY Fredonia/GAA; Gemeentelijke Archiefdienst van Amsterdam; Report of land tables; Register of buyers...date, purchase deed, surface area, purchase price and amount paid. 1804-1835
JWS - *John William Sutherland and Allied Families* by Millie A. Owings; unpublished, 1988. Repository: Proctor Free Library, 4 Main St, Proctor, Vermont 05765 (802-459-3539)
MVR - *Massachusetts U.S. Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988*; Ancestry.com Operations Inc; 2011; Original data: Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts, Holbrook Research Institute (Jay and Delene Holbrook)
MVB – *Vital Records of Massachusetts*; New England Historic Genealogical Society. *Massachusetts, U.S., Town Birth Records, 1620-1850* Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999 Provo, UT, USA
Mead - *Ye historie of ye town of Greenwich, county of Fairfield and state of Connecticut, with genealogical notes...Mead, Merritt...Sherwood...Sutherland...* by Spencer Percival Mead LLB of the New York Bar and Daniel M. Mead; New York, The Knickerbocker press, 1911
MemAge - *Memorandum of the Age of Our Children,* "The writing below is from a copy of a memorandum of the Cooleys'". This paper was copied from apocryphal sources handed down through the Samuel Thurman Cooley line
Merritt – *Sutherland Records* compiled by Douglas Merritt, New York, Tobias A Wright, 1918. Digitized by Google Books, 18 Jan 2008
MID - *Michigan Death Records 1867-1952*, Secretary of State of Michigan
MIM - *Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925*; Secretary of State, Department of Vital Records, Lansing, MI, Database with images, FamilySearch, https://FamilySearch.org, 30 April 2019
NIAF – *Niagara Frontier and the War of 1812* by Edward Bernard Hein, PhD thesis, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1949. "List of Sufferers on the Niagara Frontier from Fort Niagara to the Tonewanta Creek and from Lewiston on the Ridge Road to Widow Forsythe's"

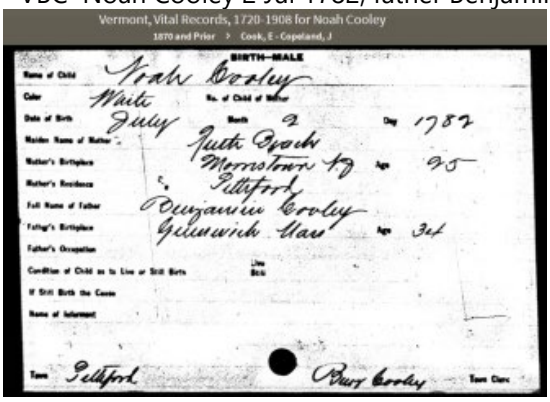
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NIAG - *History of Niagara county, N. Y., with illustrations descriptive of its scenery, private residences, public buildings, fine blocks, and important manufactories, and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents* by Sanford & Company, New York, publisher, 1878
NILAND - *Landmarks of Niagara County, New York* by William Pool; D. Mason & Company Publishers, 1897
PITT - *History Of The Town Of Pittsford, Vt. with Biographical Sketches And Family Records* by A. M. Caverly; M. D., Tuttle & Co Printers, Rutland, Vermont; 1872
Rolls – *Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War 1775-1793;* The State of Vermont compiled and edited by John E. Goodrich a member of the Vermont Historical Society; Rutland VT, The Tuttle Company, 1904
SCP - Selected transcriptions from apocryphal sources vaguely described as the "Cooley Papers" handed down through the Samuel T Cooley line currently held by Madeline Evelyn Lutz who was daughter of Justin Winthrop Cooley who was the son of James Watson Cooley who was the son of Samuel Thurman Cooley, son of Noah Cooley and Jane Sutherland
VBC - *Vermont Births and Christenings, 1765-1908*, database, FamilySearch, https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F8LT-368 : 16 December 2019; original Vital Records; Montpelier, Vermont; Office of Secretary of State
VVR - *Vermont, Vital Records, 1720-1908* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. Original data: State of Vermont. Vermont Vital Records through 1870. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts
West – *Edmund West;* Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2001. This database was created while gathering genealogical data for use in the study of human genetics and disease. Compiling data for genetic research does not require the same type of documentation as traditional genealogical research. The genes themselves verify relationships and qualify or disqualify a person from a particular study. Citing the source of every genealogical fact in the electronic gene pool was deemed unnecessary and cost prohibitive by medical researchers
WIKI - https://en.wikipedia.org
WNY1 - *Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824* by Karen E. Livsey; Baltimore; Genealogical Publishing Co; 1991
WNY2 - *Western New York Land Transactions, 1825-1835* by Karen E. Livsey; Baltimore; Genealogical Publishing Co; 1996

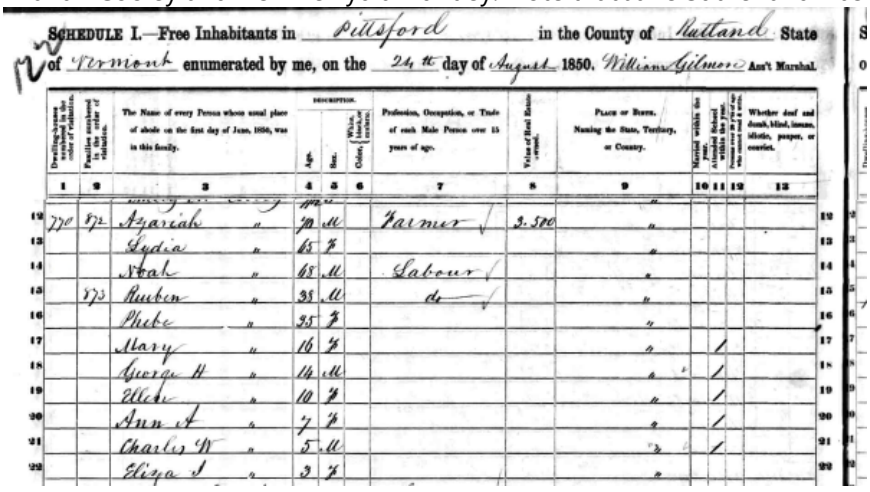
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Endnotes

[1] VBC Noah Cooley 2 Jul 1782; father Benjamin Cooley; mother Ruth Beach



[2] Determined from Noah's presence in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Vermont in the US Census of 1850, living with his brother Azariah Cooley and his wife Lydia Huntley. Note that Jane Sutherland was not enumerated in Pittsford in 1850



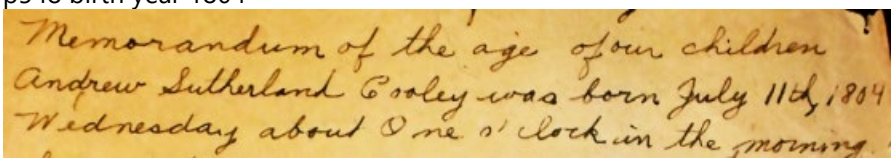
[3] VVR Probably "24" though hard to read, Jan 1804, Caleb Hendee, Town Clerk, PITT "Noah Cooley, son of Col. Benjamin, married Jane, daughter of Peter Sutherland, 24 Jan 1804"

[4] CG p548

[5] Range estimated from the Michigan State Census of 1845, assumed to have been taken in July, and the US Federal Mortality Schedule of 1850 for Seneca Township, Lenawee County, Michigan

[6] Deduced from the 1845 census that placed Arnold Coomer and Jane Eliza Cooley as next door neighbors to Noah Cooley and Jane Sutherland

[7] MemAge "Andrew Sutherland Cooley was born July 11th, 1804 Wednesday about one o'clock in the morning". Also, CG p548 birth year 1804



[8] Obituary of Andrew Sutherland Cooley by son Stephen Warren Cooley published in the Elkader Register, 6 November 1890; Locals: Garnavillo

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[9] FIG Andrew Sutherland Cooley Memorial ID 65742876 manage by DBC



[10] Obituary of Andrew Sutherland Cooley by son Stephen Warren Cooley published in the Elkader Register, 6 November 1890; Locals: Garnavillo

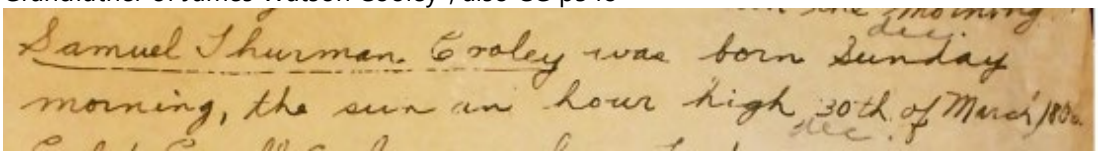
[11] Mrs A. S. Cooley obituary by daughter Clara Cooley Cook, Elkader Register, Elkader Iowa, Friday Morning, Nov. 8, 1895, p5; Salome's birth in Ashfield has not been verified

[12] Ibid

[13] FIG Salome Warren Memorial ID 65755369 manage by DBC



[14] MemAge "Samuel Thurman Cooley was born Sunday Morning, the sun a half hour high, 30th of March, 1806. Grandfather of James Watson Cooley"; also CG p548



[15] FIG Samuel Thurman Cooley Memorial ID 20605389. Goodrich Cemetery 41.85508°N 84.3904°W; on SR 34, 4½ miles east of Pittsford MI, 1½ miles west of Hudson, north side of road. Gravestone west side Samuel T Cooley/DIED/Jan. 4, 1892/Age/85y 9m/& 4 Ds

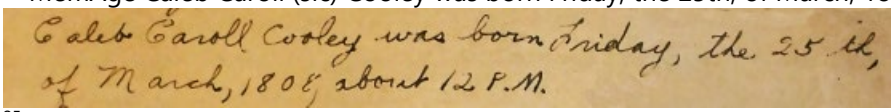


© 2025-2027 Daniel Berton Cooley

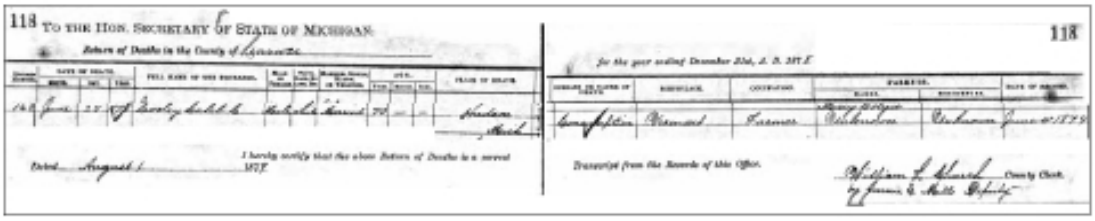
[16] Ibid
[17] MIM Name: Samuel T. Cooley; Marriage Date: 3 Feb 1831; Marriage Place: Oakland, Michigan, USA; Spouse: Electa F. Woodruff. Film Number: 000973979
[18] FIG Memorial ID 20605400 Goodrich Cem, west side of monument below Samuel T. Cooley's inscription, Electa F./His Wife/DIED/Apr 5 1843/Age/36 years; subtraction of age gets approximate birth year
[19] Ibid
[20] Ibid FIG Memorial ID 20605400, see gravestone picture above
[21] SCP
[22] SCP, birth year corroborated by US censuses 1850 thru 1880. For example, 1860, Samuel T. Cooley 56; Lydia 45; Rebecca 21; William 19; J Watson 17
[23] FIG Lydia Carter Memorial ID 20605405; gravestone pictures by Daniel Berton Cooley. Death and burial, Goodrich Cemetery inscription Lydia/Wife Of/S.T. Cooley/DIED/Nov. 19, 1887/age/73 yrs 2 mo 9 days



[24] MemAge Caleb Caroll (sic) Cooley was born Friday, the 25th, of March, 1808 about 12 P.M.


Caleb Caroll Cooley was born Friday, the 25th, of March, 1808, about 12 P.M.

[25] MID Caleb Cooley - Return of Deaths in the County of Lenawee, Michigan, page 118, record nr 162, death date June 25 1878; age 70

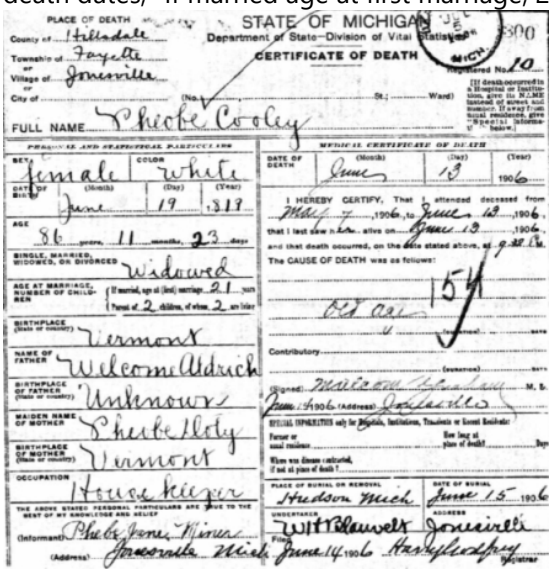

118 TO THE HON. SECRETARY OF STATE OF MICHIGAN.
118

[26] FIG Caleb C Cooley Memorial ID 9800213. Maple Grove Cemetery, 41.86858°N 84.34713°W, Hudson, Lenawee Co, Michigan, Block E, Lot 142



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[27] MID Phoebe Cooley, MI Certificate of Death; Hillsdale County, Fayette Twp, Jonesville; Registered nr 10. exact birth and death dates; "If married age at first marriage, 21 years"; marriage estimated from birth year 1819 plus 21 years = 1840



STATE OF MICHIGAN
Department of State—Division of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Registered No. 10

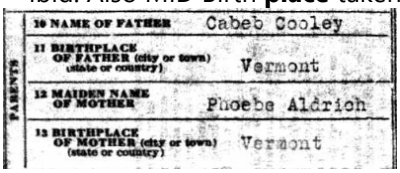
FULL NAME Phoebe Cooley

Sex: female | Color: white | Date of Birth: June 19, 1819 | Age: 86 years 11 months 23 days
Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced: Widowed
Age at Marriage: 21 | Number of Children: 2 living, 2 other
Birthplace: Vermont
Name of Father: Welcome Aldrich
Birthplace of Father: Unknown
Maiden Name of Mother: Phebe Doty
Birthplace of Mother: Vermont
Occupation: House keeper

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from May 7, 1906, to June 18, 1906, that I last saw h.. alive on June 13, 1906, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 9:30 P.M.
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Old age 15 Y
Contributory
Signed: Malcom Graham M. D.
June 1906. Address Jonesville

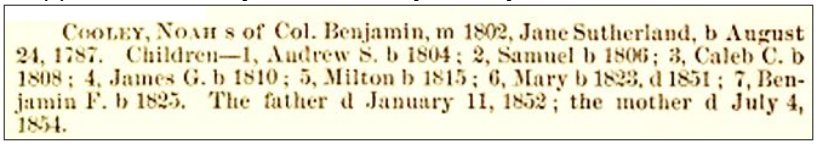
Place of Burial or Removal: Hudson Mich. | Date of Burial: June 15 1906
Undertaker: Wm Blauvelt | Address: Jonesville

[28] Ibid. Also MID Birth **place** taken from death certificate of her son, Rupert C. Cooley, Mich Dept of Health 241-137



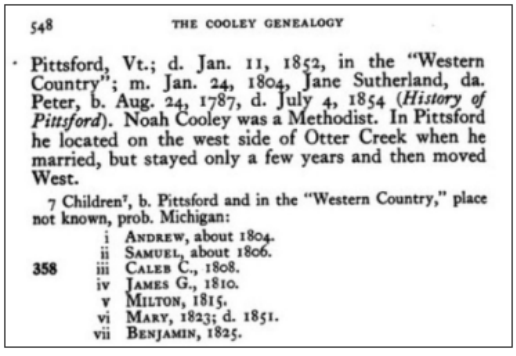
PARENTS
10 NAME OF FATHER: Cabeb Cooley
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) (state or country): Vermont
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER: Phoebe Aldrich
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) (state or country): Vermont

[29] Ibid MID Phebe was widowed, she died of "old age", see above
[30] FIG Phebe Aldrich Memorial ID 234122943 (no gravestone image). Death certificate states buried 15 Jun 1906
[31] Appendix of *History of Pittsford* by Caverly. Note that Noah and Jane's death dates and places have not been verified.



COOLEY, NOAH s of Col. Benjamin, m 1802, Jane Sutherland, b August 24, 1787. Children—1, Andrew S. b 1804; 2, Samuel b 1806; 3, Caleb C. b 1808; 4, James G. b 1810; 5, Milton b 1815; 6, Mary b 1823, d 1851; 7, Benjamin F. b 1825. The father d January 11, 1852; the mother d July 4, 1854.

And here, perpetuated in the *Cooley Genealogy* by Mortimer Cooley who used the Caverly reference



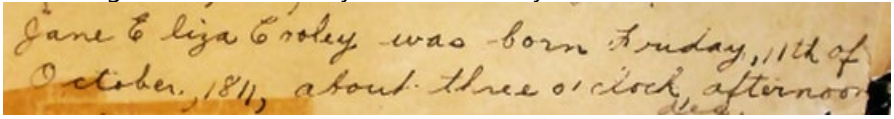
548 THE COOLEY GENEALOGY

Pittsford, Vt.; d. Jan. 11, 1852, in the "Western Country"; m. Jan. 24, 1804, Jane Sutherland, da. Peter, b. Aug. 24, 1787, d. July 4, 1854 (*History of Pittsford*). Noah Cooley was a Methodist. In Pittsford he located on the west side of Otter Creek when he married, but stayed only a few years and then moved West.

7 Children[7], b. Pittsford and in the "Western Country," place not known, prob. Michigan:

i ANDREW, about 1804.
ii SAMUEL, about 1806.
358 iii CALEB C., 1808.
iv JAMES G., 1810.
v MILTON, 1815.
vi MARY, 1823; d. 1851.
vii BENJAMIN, 1825.

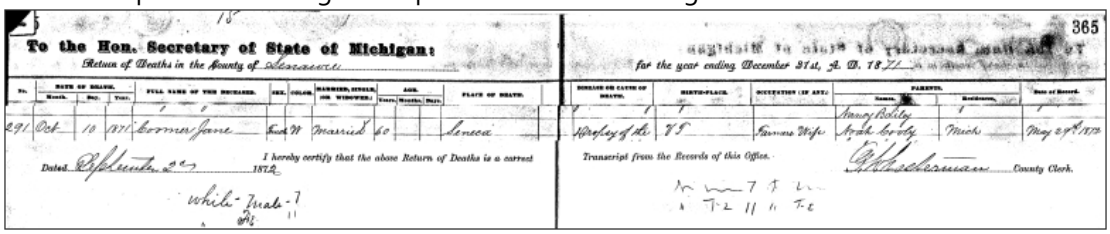
[32] MemAge "Jane Eliza Cooley was born Friday, 11th of October, 1811, about three o'clock in the afternoon"



Jane Eliza Cooley was born Friday, 11th of October, 1811, about three o'clock afternoon

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[33] MID Death Date: 10 Oct 1871; Morenci, Seneca Twp, Lenawee Co, Michigan. This is also proof that Noah and Jane were Jane Eliza's parents. It is of great importance in determining the fourth child of Noah and Jane.



To the Hon. Secretary of State of Michigan:
Return of Deaths in the County of Lenawee
for the year ending December 31st, A. D. 1871
365
291 Oct 10 1871 Coomer Jane Female White Married 60 Seneca Wife of Abr Farmer Noah Bobby Mich May 27/1870
Dated September 20 1872
I hereby certify that the above Return of Deaths is a correct Transcript from the Records of this Office.
County Clerk.

[34] FIG Jane Eliza Cooley - Memorial ID 107131233, Oak Grove Cemetery, Morenci, Seneca Twp, Lenawee Co, Michigan; photo by Daniel Berton Cooley, 2008

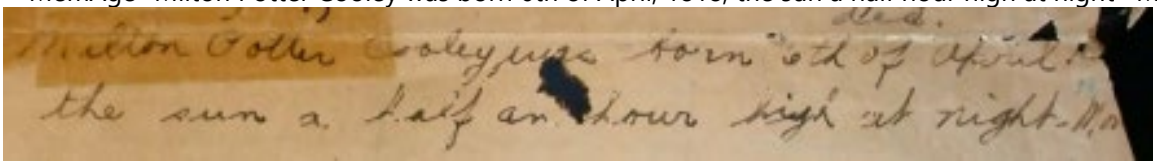


JANE E. COOMER
AGE 60 YRS
OCT. 10. 1871
A holy life has
a voice, it speaks
when the tongue is silent

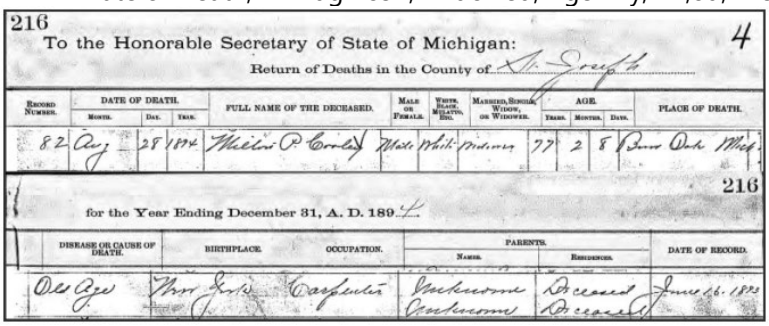
[35] Madeline Evelyn Lutz Selected transcriptions from apocryphal sources vaguely described as the "Cooley Papers" handed down through the Samuel T Cooley line. M.E. Lutz was dau of Justin Winthrop Cooley who was the son of James Watson Cooley who was the son of Samuel Thurman Cooley, son of Noah Cooley and Jane Sutherland.
[36] Year of birth estimated from the 1850 through 1880 US censuses and age 73 in year of death 1883
[37] Gravestone has exact date of death
[38] FIG Memorial ID 107131161 photo by Daniel Berton Cooley 2008



[39] MemAge "Milton Potter Cooley was born 6th of April, 1818, the sun a half hour high at night--Monday"



[40] MID Date of Death, 21 Aug 1894; Widowed; Age 77y,2m,8d; Died of "old age"; Occ: Carpenter.


216

To the Honorable Secretary of State of Michigan: 4

Return of Deaths in the County of St. Joseph

Record Number.	Date of Death. Month.	Day.	Year.	Full Name of the Deceased.	Male or Female.	White, Black, Mulatto, Etc.	Married, Single, Widow, or Widower.	Age. Years.	Months.	Days.	Place of Death.
82	Aug	28	1894	Milton P Cooley	Male	White	Widower	77	2	8	Burr Oak Mich

216

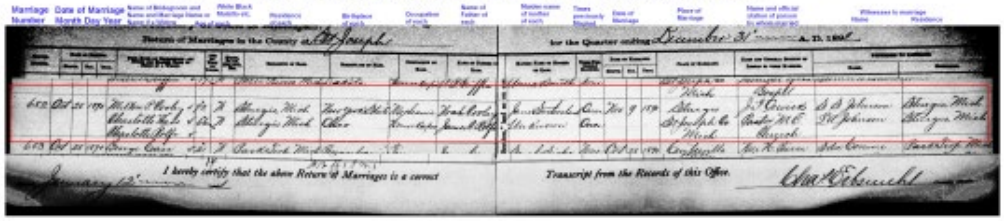
for the Year Ending December 31, A. D. 189 4

Disease or Cause of Death.	Birthplace.	Occupation.	Parents. Names.	Parents. Residence.	Date of Record.
Old Age	New York	Carpenter	Unknown	Deceased	June 16. 1895
			Unknown	Deceased	

[41] Online data show that Mary J Grover was the daughter of Betsey Avery (1785- ?) daughter of Pvt Roger Avery (1761-1841) and Elizabeth Foote (1755-1839). Both Roger and Elizabeth died in Niagara County, New York and Betsey Avery Grover died in Michigan. In fact, Betsey age 75 was found in the 1860 Census in the household of Milton P Cooley and Mary J Grover. No specific, sourced data are available for the marriage of Milton P Cooley and Mary J Grover.

[42] MIM Milton P Cooley and Charlotte Rolfe Hass, Return of Marriages in the County of St Joseph for the quarter ending Dec 31 1890

"Michigan Marriages, 1868-1925." Database with images. FamilySearch. https://FamilySearch.org
30 April 2019. Citing Secretary of State, Department of Vital Records, Lansing.


Return of Marriages in the County of St Joseph for the Quarter ending December 31 A. D. 189

I hereby certify that the above Return of Marriages is a correct Transcript from the Records of this Office.

[43] The identity of Charlotte Rolfe Hass remains uncertain; online family trees appear to conflate women of that name in Ohio, New York, Michigan, and Indiana.

[44] For her birthdate I used an online age calculator given the death date 22 Mar 1898 and her exact age at death. The result: Aug 16, 1823, Saturday, is the date 74 years, 7 months, 6 days before Mar 22, 1898.

[45] MID Michigan, Dept of State, Div of Vital Statistics, #829; Full Name Charlotte Hass.


County St Joseph
Township Mottville
Village Mottville
City

MICHIGAN.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF DEATH.

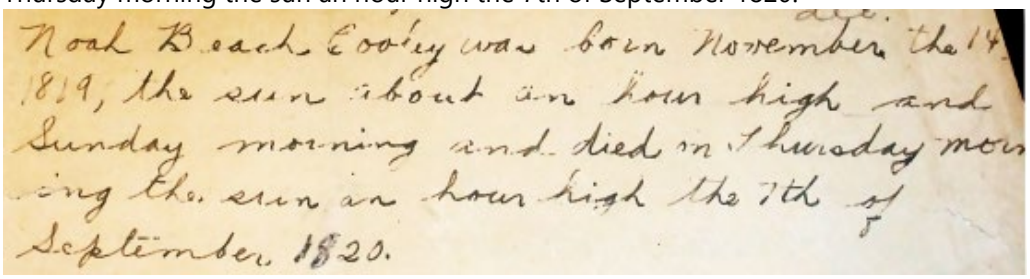
829

REGISTERED NO

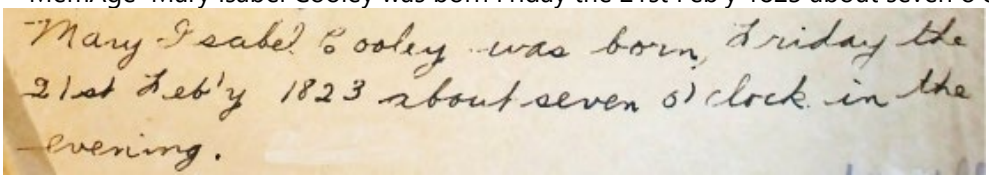
Full name Charlotte Hass Date of death

MONTH.	DAY.	YEAR.
March	22	189 8

[46] Noah Beach Cooley was born November the 14 1819, the sun about an hour high and Sunday morning and died on Thursday morning the sun an hour high the 7th of September 1820.


Noah Beach Cooley was born November the 14 1819, the sun about an hour high and Sunday morning and died on Thursday morning the sun an hour high the 7th of September 1820.

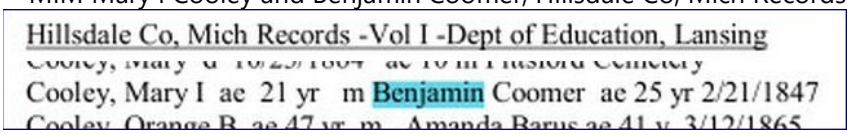
[47] MemAge Mary Isabel Cooley was born Friday the 21st Feb'y 1823 about seven o'clock in the evening


Mary Isabel Cooley was born, Friday the 21st Feb'y 1823 about seven o'clock in the evening.

[48] BGC p89 "....my dear wife was taken from me very suddenly on the first day of November, 1851, age 28 years, 8 months, and 10 days leaving me with two sons, the youngest a babe only four days old."
[49] FIG Mary I Cooley Memorial ID 16228085, Plot 1-006-3; Family Monument erected; Mary appears on the same side of the monument as her husband.



[50] MIM Mary I Cooley and Benjamin Coomer, Hillsdale Co, Mich Records Vol I Dept of Education, Lansing, MI

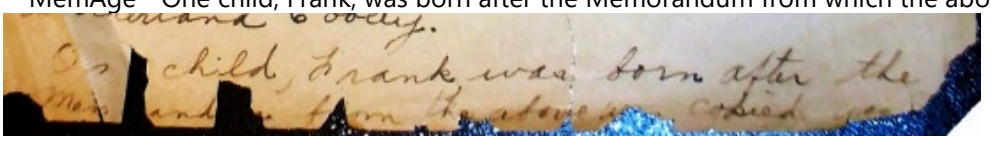

Hillsdale Co, Mich Records -Vol I -Dept of Education, Lansing
Cooley, Mary I ae 21 yr m Benjamin Coomer ae 25 yr 2/21/1847

[51] BGC p85 print PDF version "Benjamin Goff(4), David(3), Benjamin(2), Benjamin(1) Coomer, the writer of this record was born in Middlesex, Yates county, New York February 27, 1822 and was in his ninth year when we came to Michigan in 1830"
[52] MID Return on deaths in Wayne County, line entry 3498, Mar 9 1896, Benj G Coomer, Widower, age 74, died in Northville of pneumonia, birth place New York, occupation unknown
[53] FIG Benjamin G. Coomer Memorial ID 7497236; Plot 1-006-5; Family Monument (see above)
[54] This last child of Noah and Jane is a mystery. His given name was probably Benjamin Franklin. In the *History of Pittsford*, Appendix p697 author Caverly lists a Benjamin F. Cooley b. 1825. In the Hillsdale County Michigan US 1850 census there is a "Franklin", age 25, living with Samuel T Cooley. In the Burr Oak, St Joseph County, Michigan US census of 1860 a Benjamin F Cooley was living with the N.M. Ellis household (Milton P Cooley was also a resident of Burr Oak)

U.S. Census 1850 - Hillsdale County, Michigan
Dwelling 143 Family 143

Samuel T. Cooley	43	M	Farmer	$100	b in VT
Lydia	36	F			b in NY
Byron	17	M	Farmer		b in MI approx. birth year: 1832/3
Rebecca	11	F			b in MI approx. birth year: 1838/9
William	9	M			b in MI approx. birth year: 1840/1
Watson	7	M			b in MI approx. birth year: 1842/3
Eliza F Cooley	16	F			b in NY approx. birth year: 1833/4
Franklin Cooley	25	M	Farmer		b in NY approx. birth year: 1824/5

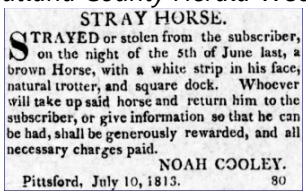
[55] MemAge "One child, Frank, was born after the Memorandum from which the above was copied, was written"


child, Frank, was born after the

[56] US Census 1850 Michigan, Hillsdale Co, Pittsford Twp, Franklin Cooley living in the household of Samuel Thurman Cooley; he was age 25 years, a farmer, was born in New York, not married within the year, did not attend school past year, can read and write, not deaf & dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or a convict
[57] US Census 1860 Michigan, St Joseph Co, Burr Oak, enumerated 30 Jul 1860, Benj' F Cooley age 35, living in the household of N.M. Ellis (age 36), a laborer, was born in New York, not married within the year, did not attend school past year, can read and write, not deaf & dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or a convict
[58] MTV, LDS microfilm 186151/GM-866, Quabbin Reservoir (Belchertown Mass), March 1959, Vol 1, 1747-1777; #8-Greenwich, p5
[59] Greenwich (pronounced green-witch not the English pronunciation) was originally part of an area known as Narragansett Township Number Four when Benjamin was born in 1747. It was located along the East and Middle branches of the Swift River and was settled by land grantees who had served England in the Indian Wars against the Narragansetts. The area became known as "Quabbin Parish" or "Quabbin Plantation" by the late 1740s and the town of Greenwich was incorporated on 20 Apr 1754.
[60] *Vital Records of Brimfield Massachusetts to the year 1850*, Boston, Mass, 1931; New England Historic Genealogical Society. Massachusetts, U.S., Town Birth Records, 1620-1850 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999.
[61] Capt. Ephraim Doolittle (1725–1807), a native of Massachusetts, served as a provincial officer in the French and Indian War, commanding a company raised in Hampshire County. Gideon Cooley of Brimfield is known to have served under him during this conflict. After the war, Doolittle became one of the original grantees of Shoreham, Vermont, through a 1761 township charter issued by New Hampshire's Gov. Benning Wentworth. Like many Massachusetts veterans and speculators, Doolittle acquired land as part of a proprietary group rather than by military grant. When the Crown awarded jurisdiction of the region to New York in 1764, colonial authorities invalidated the Wentworth charters, but Doolittle and his fellow settlers refused to repurchase their lands, becoming part of the wider resistance that eventually led to the creation of Vermont
[62] PITT pp29-30 Doolittle was a prominent agent of the New York land claimants in Pittsford and issued grants in exchange for labor on unimproved tracts
[63] Ibid p29 the brothers traveled with Gideon's family by horseback in May, carrying their possessions in sacks. Their "humble log cabin" marked the first permanent Euro-American settlement in Pittsford.
[64] Ibid The deeds were executed at Worcester, Massachusetts, before Justice John Chandler, and described the tracts as within New York jurisdiction, a reflection of the overlapping claims of the period.
[65] Ibid p30 Doolittle conveyed these lands to the Cooleys on 30 October 1769, citing nominal consideration of five shillings. Gideon received land previously associated with Robert Crawford; Benjamin received land from the right of Daniel Boyden. Both Crawford and Boyden had been grantees under earlier New Hampshire titles.
[66] Ibid p26
[67] VVR Benjamin Cooley groom and town clerk.
[68] $Benjamin_6$ (b. 1774), Samuel Sr. (b. 1775), Ruth (b. 1777), Azariah (b. 1780), Noah (b. 1782), Mary (b. 1786), Naomi (b. 1788), Eunice (b. 1791), Susannah (b. 1793), and Dorothy (b. 1794).
[69] *Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War, 1775 to 1783* compiled and edited by John E. Goodrich; The Tuttle Co, 1904; pp vii, viii, 102, 161, 182, 217, 787
[70] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capture_of_Fort_Ticonderoga
[71] *The Ticonderoga Expedition of 1775* by Robert O. Bascom and James Austin Holden; excerpts, Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown New York, 1910; p310 "responded to the call of Maj Samuel Beach...rallying the Green Mountain Boys". Note that Benjamin was not a member of the Green Mountain Boys; he accompanied them as did Gen Benedict Arnold
[72] WIKI https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermont_Republic - The Republic of Vermont was an independent state in New England that existed for 14 years from 15 Jan 1777 to 4 Mar 1791. The republic was founded when delegates from 28 towns met and declared independence from the jurisdictions and land claims of the British colonies of Quebec, New Hampshire, and New York. On 4 Mar 1791 it was admitted into the United States of America as the State of Vermont with its constitution and laws of an independent state continuing in effect after admission.
[73] PITT p320
[74] VVR Index card, 24 Jan 1804, Caleb Hendee, Town Clerk

[75] It must be remembered that the US Census bureau did not issue standardized forms in the early years of the census. Regarding the Noah household double count both enumerators drew their own forms and category columns. The Pittsford enumerator placed Jane, then 22, into the 26-44 category and the Rutland enumerator's female columns were unclear

[76] *Rutland County Herald* Wed Jul_28 1813_Noah Cooley stray horse



STRAY HORSE.

STRAYED or stolen from the subscriber, on the night of the 5th of June last, a brown Horse, with a white strip in his face, natural trotter, and square dock. Whoever will take up said horse and return him to the subscriber, or give information so that he can be had, shall be generously rewarded, and all necessary charges paid.

NOAH COOLEY.

Pittsford, July 10, 1813. 80

[77] *The Evolution of Niagara County* by Vernette Genter former Town of Cambria Historian https://townofcambria.com/historian

[78] WIKI ***Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, Between His Britannic Majesty and the United States of America,*** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_Treaty

[79] NIAG pp89-92 Ch XVI The Holland Purchase and Purchasers, Surveys, Sales, and Settlements

[80] Philip Beach was born estimated 1771-72; there are no primary sources for his birthdate or birthplace. He was married to Lois Cushman, place and date unknown

[81] NIAG p228 Earliest Residents of the Town

[82] *The Evolution of Niagara County* by Vernette Genter former Town of Cambria Historian https://townofcambria.com/historian The Niagara area of Ontario County became Genesee County in 1802

[83] The Historic Forsyth-Warren Tavern, https://www.forsythtavern.com/cambrian-history.html which is an extensive history of the Ridge Road corridor with many wonderful illustrations of properties along the road including the property of Cyrus Beach son of Jesse Beach

[84] NIAG p228 "Earliest Residents of the Town" [of Cambria]

[85] WNY1 p13 original purchase

[86] WNY1 p17 original purchase

[87] Philip died in Cambria on 1 May 1840 and is buried in Molyneaux Cemetery. His brother Jesse was also buried there but later his body was exhumed and moved to North Ridge Cemetery where there is now a family monument. It is odd the same didn't happen to Philip. He is still buried in Molyneaux Cemetery



Gravestone photo by Daniel B Cooley August 2010

[88] There is no primary source for Jesse Beach's genealogical data. The American Genealogical-Biographical Index estimates his birth year as 1768. His birthplace was probably New Jersey or Vermont. He was married to Lovina Scott 20 Feb 1790 in Whiting; Addison County, New Hampshire Grants (Vermont), source VVR *Vermont Vital Records, 1720-1908* database on FamilySearch. A family monument in North Ridge Cemetery states his death year as 1815, the year Noah Cooley arrived in Niagara County

[89] WNY1 – p86 Code O, Original Purchase

[90] NILAND pp42-44

[91] NIAF p338 Jesse Beach "From Hustler's at Lewiston to Widow Forsythe's now Warren's on the Ridge Road"

[92] NIAG p800 [he] built his lonely cabin in the woods and spent the rest of his life there. It was not as long as one as were those of many of his descendents for he was born in 1768 and died Dec 5, 1815

[93] NIAG p228

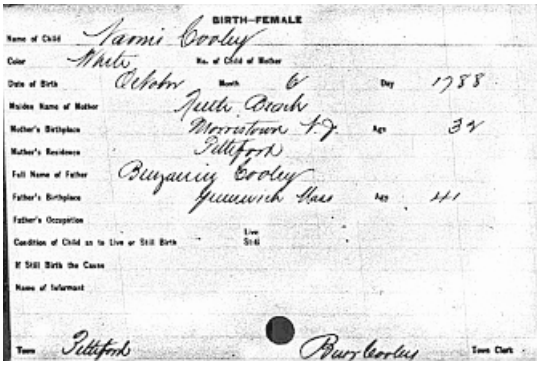
[94] The *American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI)* estimates Aaron Beach's birth year as 1761, birthplace, New Jersey (Vol 11, p166). Anecdotes say he was married to Rachel Walker in Whiting, Addison County, New Hampshire Grants probably on the "Beach Farm". He died 17 Jun 1846 in Cambria and was buried in North Ridge Cemetery, Findagrave Memorial ID 28336455

[95] NIAG p228 Aaron Beach located on the South Ridge near his brother, in 1811 and in 1815 on the North Ridge

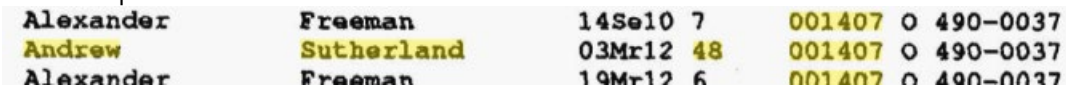
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[96] NIAG p252
[97] NIAF p338 Aaron Beach "From Hustler's at Lewiston to Widow Forsythe's now Warren's on the Ridge Road"
[98] NIAG p228

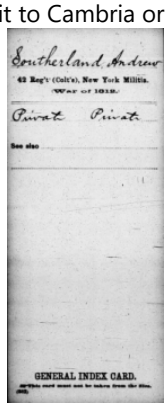
[99] The American Genealogical-Biographical Index estimates John Beach's birth year as 1766 in New Jersey. Anecdotes say he was married to Mary Cushman, year unknown. (Mary was probably Philip Beach's wife Lois Cushman's sister). John died 19 Jan 1821 in Lewiston, Niagara County and is buried in First Presbyterian Cemetery, Lewiston Findagrave Memorial ID 28348082. His wife Mary is inscribed on the same gravestone; she died 8 Jan 1818.
[100] WNY1 p21
[101] NIAF p335 John Beach "From Hustler's at Lewiston to Widow Forsythe's now Warren's on the Ridge Road"
[102] Andrew Sutherland Sr b. 3 Sep 1783 (in Sutherland Falls, Rutland County, Republic of Vermont) (birth date calculated from gravestone date of death); d. 28 Feb 1836 in Cambria, Niagara Co, New York; buried in Glenwood Cem, Lockport, Niagara County, New York (gravestone has exact date of death and exact age at death)
[103] CG p492
[104] VVR Index card. Father and Town Clerk of Pittsford, Benjamin Cooley


BIRTH—FEMALE
Name of Child: Sarmi Cooley
Color: White
Date of Birth: October Month 6 Day 1788
Maiden Name of Mother: Ruth Brooks
Mother's Birthplace: Morristown N.J. Age 34
Mother's Residence: Pittsford
Full Name of Father: Benjamin Cooley
Father's Birthplace: Greenwich Mass Age 41
Father's Occupation:
Condition of Child as to Live or Still Birth: Live
If Still Birth the Cause:
Name of Informant:
Town: Pittsford Town Clerk: Benj Cooley

[105] JWS p27 Much of the information in this section about Andrew Sutherland was taken from the John William Sutherland and Descendants by Millie Owings who had access to Andrew Sutherland Jr's journal, an accounting of the life of the Sutherlands on Ridge Road.
[106] WNY1 p86


Alexander Freeman 14Se10 7 001407 O 490-0037
Andrew Sutherland 03Mr12 48 001407 O 490-0037
Alexander Freeman 19Mr12 6 001407 O 490-0037

[107] JWS Andrew Jr's journal stated they were spared
[108] https://findingaids.nysed.gov/ Two men named Andrew Southerland (note variant spelling) are recorded as serving in the New York militia during the War of 1812. One served as a Corporal in Hopkins' Regiment, based in the Genesee Valley near Rochester. The other served as a Private in Colonel Elisha Colt's 42nd Regiment, which was stationed along the Niagara frontier. Andrew Sutherland purchased a parcel in Lot 48 at Molyneaux Corners, Cambria in 1812, just prior to the outbreak of the war, and Colt's Regiment was defending that very region. All of this makes it highly probable that this was our Andrew Sutherland. By contrast, Hopkins' Regiment was drawn from areas far to the east and would not have included settlers in Niagara County. No evidence links Andrew of Hopkins' unit to Cambria or Warren's Corners, further reinforcing the distinction.


Southerland Andrew
42 Reg't (Colt's), New York Militia.
War of 1812.
Privat Privat
See also
GENERAL INDEX CARD.

[109] WNY1 See codes below

Andrew	Sutherland	24No18	23	001407	R 508-0133
Andrew	Sutherland	24No18	23	001407	W 497-0084

[110] WNY1 Philip Beach original purchaser, Andrew Sutherland re-articled
O - Table of Original Articles or Deeds: First purchasers of land. Some settlers paid for their land immediately and received a deed. Most purchasers received an Article of Agreement with a time limit for payment.
S - Table of Subsequent Receipts: This includes all payments received on accounts after the original article was executed.
R - Table of Reversions: Land that for one reason or another had reverted back to the Company and would again be available to article. Sometimes the settler never came back to the land or there was no activity on the account within the time period allotted by the article or application and the Company could put it back on the market again. After modified sales began in 1827 there is often a reversion that corresponds with a Modified Sale (D)
W- Table of Articles Renewed: After the time was up purchasers could renew their articles for an additional time period but usually at a higher purchase price. It is in this table that new and additional purchasers show up for the same land as was previously articled. The original article is listed (indicated with a P in this book) and then the new articles are listed Code W.

From Western New York Land Transactions by Karen Livsey
Showing Lot 31 original ownership by Philip Beach in 1808 then transferred to Andrew Sutherland in 1818

Philip	Beach	23No08	31	001407	O 486-0019
Philip	Beach	25Oc11	31	001407	S 489-0080
Andrew	Sutherland	25No18	31	001407	R 508-0132
Andrew	Sutherland	25No18	31	001407	W 496-0091

[111] WIKI An **ashery** was a place where potash was produced from wood ashes. Potash is an alkali, or a base, that was used in the production of soap, glass, and textiles in the 18th and 19th centuries. The potash and pearl ash produced in asheries were packed into barrels and shipped to markets for sale, notably to Great Britain where they were used in the production of glass and ceramic wares. In North America, the American potash industry flourished as colonists cleared land and found a market for the potash derived from the excess wood. However, the industry declined in the late 19th century with the discovery of large-scale potash deposits from mineral salts in Germany
[112] WNY1 D Modified Sale: This records sales that are renegotiated contracts. This began in 1827. To adjust the amount owed on an account, settlers were encourage
to renegotiate their articles. There is often a reversion recorded for the same land but not always in the same name. Always check for a corresponding reversion (R) to see who had articled the land before.

Andrew	Sutherland	060c30	31	001407	D 508-0102

[113] JWS – Andrew Jr's journal stated his father died on the 29th and, indeed, 1836 was a leap year. However, for consistency's sake, the death date on Andrew's gravestone will be the standard. See below. Andrew was buried on his farm, but later moved to the Glenwood cemetery in Lockport. His gravestone was found as part of a stepping stone walk of the mansion built by his son Fletcher's seven daughters. A great grandson retrieved it and had it moved to the Glenwood cemetery where it is today,

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[114] Glenwood Cemetery Lockport NY: Gravestone inscription "Col Andrew Sutherland/Died/Feb 28 1836/E. 52yrs.5mo./& 25 d". The willow symbol at the top symbolizes mourning, sorrow, and grief related to death.



[115] JWS pp30-31
[116] Ibid
[117] https://www.forsythtavern.com/cambrian-history.html
[118] *The Hair Raising Trials and Tribulations of the Seven Sutherland Sisters* by Kristen Algoe, Dristyne Hawks and Maura Pirrone
[119] *Pioneer History of the Holland Purchase; Western New York embracing Some Account of the Ancient Remains [of the] Confederated Iroquois [and] A Synopsis of Colonial History...and a history of Pioneer Settlement...Reminiscences of the War of 1812...Erie Canal...etc. etc. etc.* by O. Turner, Geo H Derry and Co, Buffalo, 1850.
[120] *Joseph Ellicott and the Holland Land Company; the Opening of Western New York* by William Chazanof; Syracuse University Press
[121] WIKI Treaty of Ghent https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Ghent
[122] *Frontier Settlement and Market Revolution; The Holland Land Purchase* by Charles E. Brooks; Cornell University Press, 1996
[123] Ibid
[124] HLC Map 0924, T14R7, Holland Land Company Map Collection, SUNY Fredonia from Gemeentelijke Archiefdienst van Amsterdam, SUNY Fredonia/GAA, Amsterdam/NDR, The Hague 7 August 2008
[125] WNY1 p137

Noah	Cooley	08My15 46X	001407 O 493-0081

[126] HLP Group 493 1815 Noah Cooley Lot 46



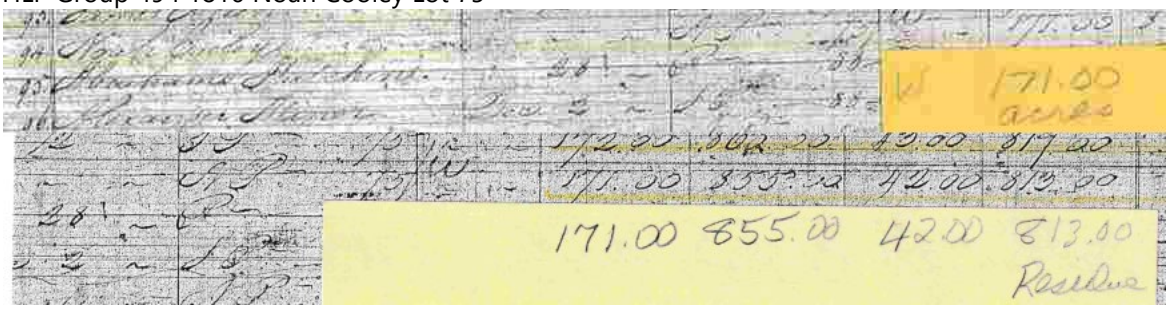
[127] WNY1 p137 George Neal purchased a parcel on Lot 54 (presumably the east part) shortly after Noah purchased his parcel on Lot 46. It appears there could have been some agreement between George and Noah.

George A.	Neal	15My15 54X	001407 O 493-0081
Richard	Thurston	02Jn15 43	001407 O 493-0081
Allen	Johnson	02Jn15 43	001407 O 493-0081
Welcom	Henry	02Jn15 35	001407 O 493-0082
William	Henry	02Jn15 35	001407 O 493-0082
Joseph	Gibson	12Jy15 15	001407 O 493-0082
John	Gibson	12Jy15 15	001407 O 493-0082
Otis	Comstock	22Se15 4,5	001407 O 493-0082
Thomas	Wellington	190c15 12	001407 O 493-0082
Noah	Cooley	200c15 54X	001407 O 493-0082

[128] HLP Group 493 1815 Noah Cooley Lot 54



[129] HLP Group 494 1816 Noah Cooley Lot 75



[130] *Joseph Ellicott and the Holland Land Company; the Opening of Western New York* by William Chazanof; Syracuse University Press

[131] *Frontier Settlement and Market Revolution; The Holland Land Purchase* by Charles E. Brooks; Cornell University Press, 1996; Ch 4, "Labor, Land, and Property Rights" p106 ff

[132] WNY1 p330 Benjamin Cooley Lot 54 T14R7 Code W:

W Table of Articles Renewed: After the time was up purchasers could renew their articles for an additional time period but usually at a higher purchase price. It is in this table that new and additional purchasers show up for the same land as was previously articled. The original article is listed (indicated with a P in this book) and then the new articles are listed (W).

Samuel	Cooley	21Au23 55	001407 W 501-0083
Benjamin	Cooley	06Se23 54	001407 W 501-0083
George A.	Neal	06Se23 54	001407 W 501-0083

[133] Benjamin Cooley 6th was the son of Benjamin5 Cooley and Ruth Beach. He was born 9 Jan 1774 in Pittsford, Charlotte County, New York, died 7 Dec 1838 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont, and was buried in Old Congregational Cemetery (now Meetinghouse Cem). While nothing indicates he left Pittsford, it is possible he could have made an excursion to Niagara County to help his brother; very little is known of his life

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[134] WNY1 p107 Benjamin Cooley 29 Jun 1814 Original purchase of Lot 46 Twp 6, Rng 1 and p160 Code S payments made on that lot

[135] Samuel Cooley Jr was born 8 Mar 1804 in Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont, died 6 Nov 1872 in Bruce, Macomb County, Michigan and is buried in McCafferty Cemetery, Bruce Twp, Macomb County, Mich. He was married three times, the first two with little documentation and the last m. 12 Nov 1850 in Macomb County to Maretta Wood b. 1808, d. 1888, bur. McCafferty Cem, Bruce Twp, Macomb Cty, Mich

[136] WNY1 D - Modified Sale: This records sales that are renegotiated contracts. This began in 1827. To adjust the amount owed on an account, settlers were encourage to renegotiate their articles. There is often a reversion recorded for the same land but not always in the same name. Always check for a corresponding reversion (R) to see who had articled the land before.

[137] WNY1 p330

Samuel	Cooley	21Au23	55X	001407 W 501-0083
Benjamin	Cooley	06Se23	54X	001407 W 501-0083
George A.	Neal	06Se23	54X	001407 W 501-0083

[138] WNY1 p384

Noah	Cooley	20Oc15	54	001407 R 509-013
Samuel	Cooley	21Au23	55	001407 R 509-013

[139] US Census, New York, Niagara Co, Cambria, Samuel Cooley, 11 family members

171 A

Names of Heads of Families.	Free White Males.						Free White Females.					
	Free white males under ten years.	Free white males of ten and under sixteen.	Free white males sixteen and eighteen.	Free white males of sixteen and under twenty-six, including heads of families.	Free white males of twenty-six and under forty-five, including heads of families.	Free white males of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families.	Free white females under ten years of age.	Free white females of ten and under sixteen.	Free white females of sixteen and under twenty-six, including heads of families.	Free white females of twenty-six and under forty-five, including heads of families.	Free white females of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families.	Foreigners not naturalized.
Cambria)	to 10	to 16	16 to 18	16 to 26	to 45	45, &c.	to 10	to 16	to 26	to 45	45, &c.	
X Sam'l Cooley	2	3	1	2	1		1		1	1		

[140] Samuel Cooley, George Neal, Cranston Allen, Robert Waterhouse, Jonas Schoonover, and Abner Lay all involved, all reverted with the exception of George Neal who regularly made payments on his parcel

[141] The *History of Macomb County, Michigan* by M.E. Leeson, pub by M.E. Leeson & Co, 1882, covers the Samuel Cooley Sr. family and descendants extensively

[142] WNY2 p370

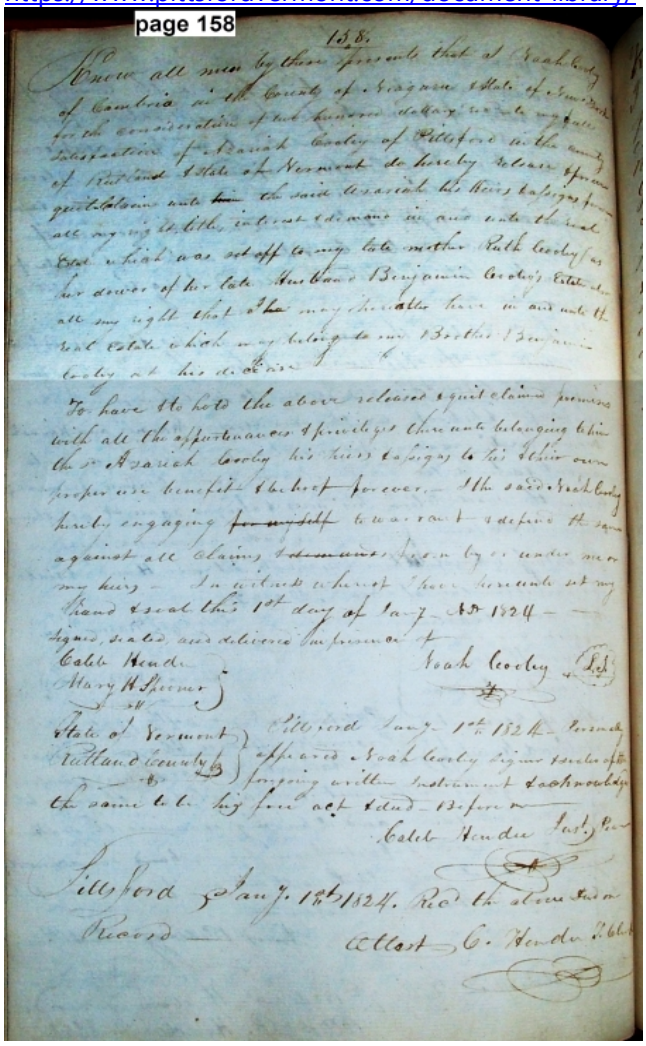
Noah	Cooley	11Ja31 54	001407 D 509-0100
Samuel, Jr.	Cooley	11Ja31 54	001407 D 509-0100
Appleton	Andrus	11Ja31 54	001407 D 509-0100
Samuel, Jr.	Cooley	11Ja31 55	001407 D 509-0100

[143] WNY1 Charles and William Molyneux (sic) had reversions on lots 39 and 47 before mid 1820

Charles & Wm.	Molyneux	26My20 39	407 R 508-0132
William	Molyneux	02Oc18 47	001407 R 508-0132
Charles & Wm.	Molyneux	19No19 39	001407 R 508-0132

William Molyneaux was successful in other parts of the Holland Purchase, however

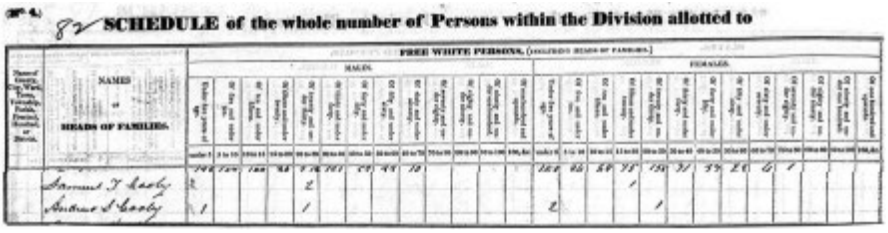
[144] WIKI https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quitclaim
[145] Pittsford Town Office, 426 Plains Rd, Pittsford, VT 05763
https://www.pittsfordvermont.com/document-library/


page 158

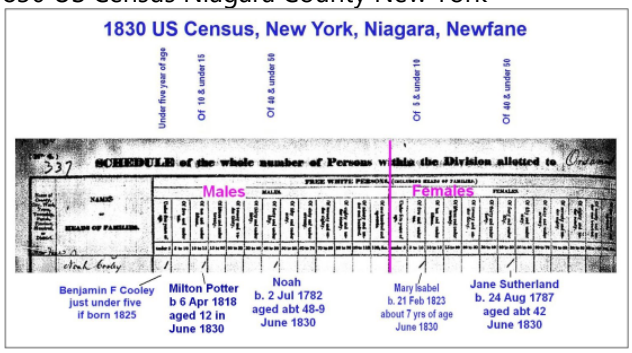
[146] Although dates of reversion may have been recorded in the original HLC records, Karen Livsey simply took the original entry and marked it "R"
[147]WNY2 – p530 Noah Cooley and James Allen made a joint purchase in Lot 75 on 12 Oct 1816. Both Noah and James show up in the second Livsey volume (1825-1835) under Code R (reversion back to the company) with no date of the actual reversion. No other HLP records exist until Jesse Smith renegotiated a new contract (Code D) on 1 Mar 1833.
[148] WNY2 – p106 John Gould and John McDole appear in Holland Land Purchase records on 3 Jan 1828 with a Code W for Lot 46. *Code W: After the allotted time was up purchasers could renew their articles for an additional time period but usually at a higher price. It is in this table that new and additional purchasers may show up for the same land as was previously articled.* Noah Cooley was the original purchaser of Lot 46 (Code O) but he did not show up in a reversion article so the two Johns must have slipped in to take over. There was an Augustus Dodge with holdings in Lot 46 that shows up in a reversion article (Code R) on 20 Jan 1832. From this information, a possible time for Noah's removal to Newfane could be early 1828.
[149] Mary Isabel Cooley was born Friday the 21st Feb'y 1823 about seven o'clock in the evening
[150] 1860, St Joseph County, Burr Oak, living in the N.M. Ellis household. Benjamin F was just one year younger than Ellis who was 36.
[151] Obituary by son Stephen Warren Cooley published Elkader Register: November 6, 1890; Locals: Garnavillo. "March 10, 1825, [Andrew Sutherland Cooley] married Miss Salome Warren, of Cambria, N.Y., *a descendant of Jos. Warren of Revolutionary fame* [*not correct*]... In 1830 they emigrated west, and located in Franklin, Oakland County, Mich., where they resided until 1834".

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[152] 1830 US Census, Michigan Territory, Oakland County Samuel T Cooley and Andrew S Cooley appear on consecutive lines. There are two males of age 20 and under 30 in the Samuel T Cooley household, one Samuel and the other probably Caleb


87 SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the Division allotted to

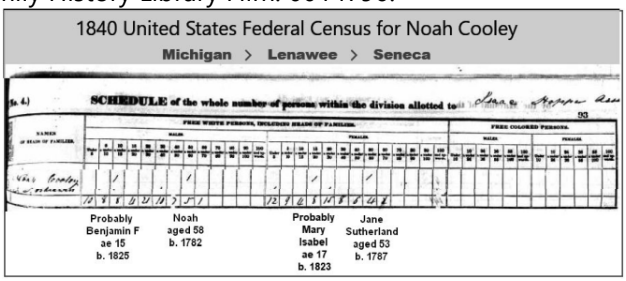
[153] 1830 US Census Niagara County New York



[154] COM p42 Benjamin[3] Coman or Coomer (Joseph[2], Richard[1]), son of Joseph Coman and Sarah Blanding
[155] COM p42 Ruth Goff daughter of William[3] (Samuel[2], Anthony[1]) and Rebecca Whiting
[156] COM pp43-44
[157] NIAG p279
[158] COM p42
[159] COM p44 Fourth Generation twins David & Jonathan
[160] WNY2 pages 317 and 342
[161] WNY2 p578
[162] *Coomer Family Record* by Benjamin Goff Coomer page 77 typewritten version
[163] MIM Hillsdale Co, Mich Records Vol I Dept of Education, Lansing MI
[164] *Edward Tiffin to the Commissioner of the General Land Office,* 30 Nov 1815, describing the Michigan military bounty lands as low, wet, and interspersed with swamps and lakes; General Land Office correspondence, National Archives microfilm (Record Group 49); https://project.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/Tiffin.html
[165] The "one acre in a hundred" tradition is attributed to later historical interpretation rather than the original report. *Memoirs of Lenawee County, 52–53*, paraphrasing the 30 Nov 1815 report of Edward Tiffin summarized the surveyed lands as containing "not more than one acre in one hundred, if more than one in one thousand, fit for cultivation". The numerical estimate reflects later narrative compression of the report's qualitative description of extensive marsh and wet prairie.
[166] Edward Tiffin's inspection led Congress to redirect the bounty lands southwestward. U.S. Congress, *An Act to authorize the survey of 2,000,000 acres of public lands in lieu of that quantity heretofore authorized to be surveyed in the Territory of Michigan as Military Bounty Lands*, approved 29 Apr 1816. The act transferred the proposed bounty surveys from Michigan Territory to Illinois and Missouri following the unfavorable examination conducted in 1815.
https://project.geo.msu.edu/geogmich/Tiffin.html
[167] WIKI the *Treaty of Detroit* was a treaty between the United States and the Ottawa, Chippewa, Wyandot and Potawatomi Native American nations signed in Detroit on November 17, 1807. William Hull, governor of the Michigan Territory and superintendent of Indian affairs, was the sole representative of the United States. With this treaty, these Native American tribes ceded claim to a large portion of land in what is now Southeast Michigan and northwest Ohio
[168] WIKI the *Treaty of Fort Meigs*, also called the Treaty of the Maumee Rapids, was signed September 29, 1817 at Fort Meigs (located on a bluff overlooking the rapids of the Maumee River in present-day Perrysburg, Ohio) between those chiefs and warriors of the Wyandot, Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa (also known as the Ojibwe) tribes of Native Americans and Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, and Gen. Duncan McArthur of Ohio.

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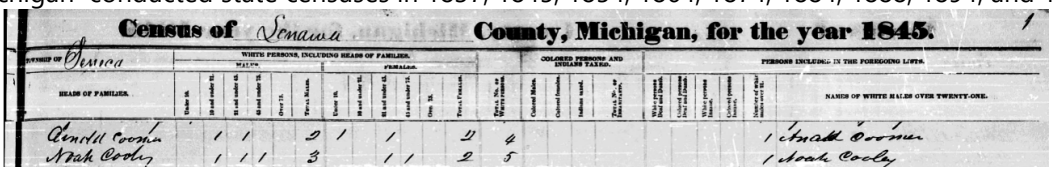
The treaty reserved small plots for those tribes ("reservations") but these resettlement and assimilation schemes failed, the government took back the lands of the reservations, and resold them to whites resulting in speculation and fraud.
[169] The *Indian Removal Act of 1830* was signed into law on May 28, 1830, by United States president Andrew Jackson. The law, as described by Congress, provided "for an exchange of lands with the Indians residing in any of the states or territories, and for their removal west of the river Mississippi". The act significantly affected Native Americans in the Michigan-Ohio area, causing forced migration of tribes like the Wyandot, Potawatomi, and Ottawa across the river.
[170] *A Century Of Dishonor; A Sketch Of The United States Government's Dealings With Some Of The Indian Tribes* by Helen Jackson; Roberts Brothers; University Press; John Wilson and Son, Cambridge; Copyright, 1885
[171] Sixth Census of the United States, 1840. (NARA microfilm publication M704, 580 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C. Census Place: Seneca, Lenawee, Michigan; Roll: 207; p93, Family History Library Film: 0014796.


1840 United States Federal Census for Noah Cooley
Michigan > Lenawee > Seneca

SCHEDULE of the whole number of persons within the division allotted to

Probably Benjamin F ae 15 b. 1825
Noah aged 58 b. 1782
Probably Mary Isabel ae 17 b. 1823
Jane Sutherland aged 53 b. 1787

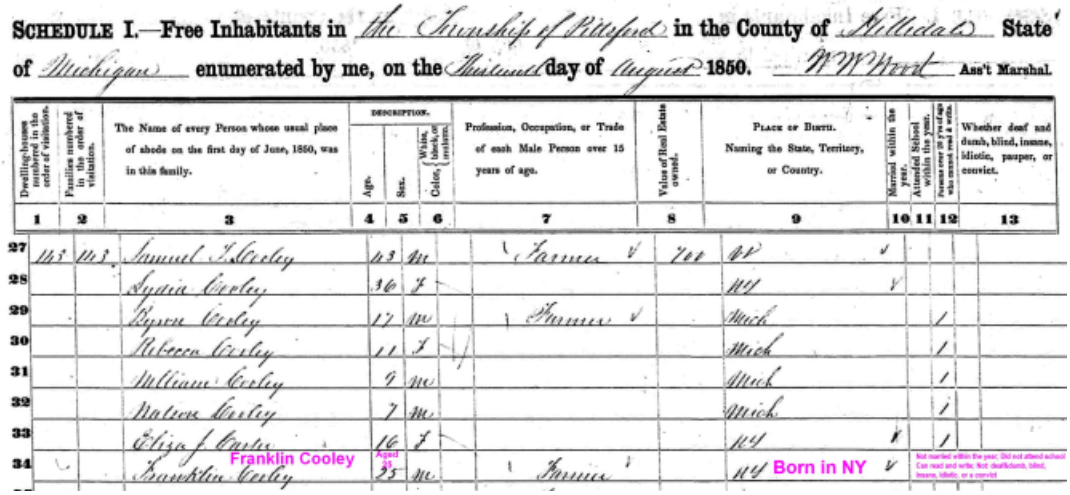
[172] Throughout U.S. history, various U.S. states conducted their own censuses. These censuses were often conducted every ten years, in years ending with a five to complement the U.S. federal census (which is carried out in years that end with zero). Also, some of these censuses were conducted while they were still U.S. territories, before they became U.S. states. Michigan conducted state censuses in 1837, 1845, 1854, 1864, 1874, 1884, 1888, 1894, and 1904.


Census of Senawa County, Michigan, for the year 1845.

Arnold Coomer 1 1 2 1 1 2 4 1 Arnold Coomer
Noah Cooley 1 1 1 3 1 1 2 5 1 Noah Cooley

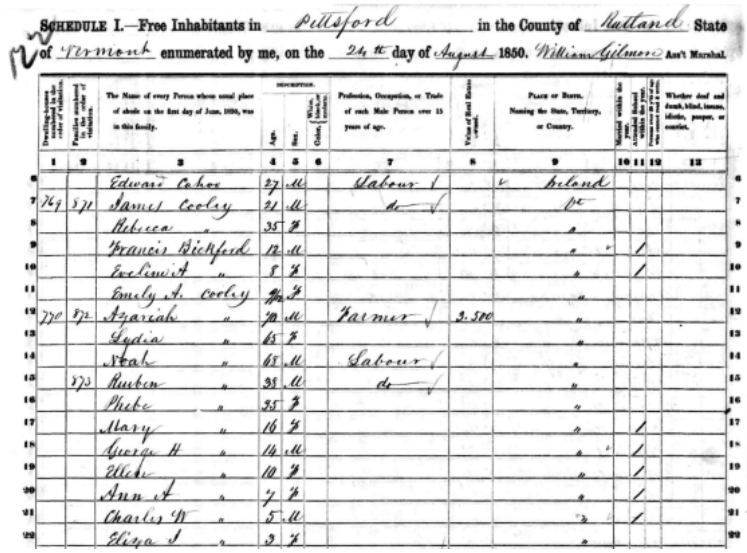
[173] p98 *Coomer Family Record* by Benjamin G. Coomer & Delene Corn. FamilySearch International, digital publisher; https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/123486-coomer-family-record
[174] https://www.migenweb.org/lenawee/senecamortsched.html

[175] 1850 US Census, Michigan, Hillsdale, Pittsford, Franklin Cooley age 25 in the household of his elder brother Samuel Thurman Cooley and his second wife, Lydia Carter


SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in the Township of Pittsford in the County of Hillsdale State of Michigan enumerated by me, on the Thirteenth day of August 1850. W W Ward Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Age.	Sex.	Color, (black, or mulatto)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
27	113	Samuel T Cooley	43	M		Farmer	700	NY				
28		Lydia Cooley	36	F				NY				
29		Byron Cooley	17	M		Farmer		Mich				
30		Rebecca Cooley	11	F				Mich				
31		William Cooley	9	M				Mich				
32		Nelson Cooley	7	M				Mich				
33		Eliza J Carter	16	F				NY				
34		Franklin Cooley	Aged 25	M		Farmer		NY Born in NY				

[176] 1850 US Census, Vermont, Rutland Co, Pittsford, Noah with Azariah

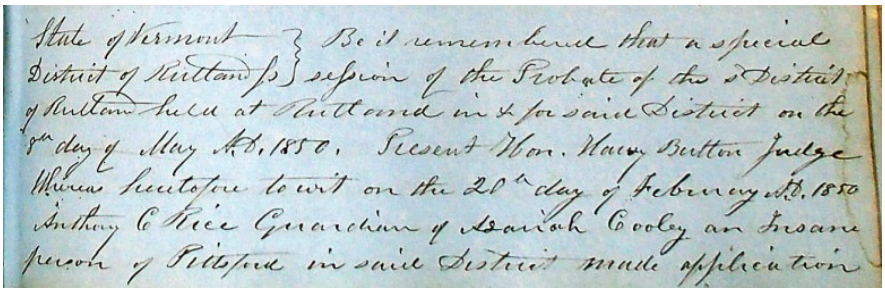


SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Pittsford in the County of Rutland State of Vermont enumerated by me, on the 24th day of August 1850. William Gilmore Ass't Marshal.

		The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Age	Sex	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	School within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Edward Cobes	27	M		Labour		Ireland			
764	371	James Cooley	21	M		do		Vt			
		Rebecca "	35	F				"			
		Francis Bickford	12	M				"		/	
		Evaline A "	8	F				"		/	
		Emily A. Cooley	3/12	F				"			
770	372	Azariah "	70	M		Farmer	3.500	"			
		Lydia "	65	F				"			
		Noah "	68	M		Labour		"			
	373	Reuben "	38	M		do		"			
		Phebe "	35	F				"			
		Mary "	16	F				"		/	
		Georg H "	14	M				"		/	
		Ellen "	10	F				"		/	
		Ann A "	7	F				"		/	
		Charles N "	5	M				"		/	
		Eliza J "	3	F				"			

[177] Ibid

[178] May 8th 1850 - State of Vermont District of Rutland} Be it remembered that a special session of the Probate of this District of Rutland held at Rutland in and for said District on the 8th day of May AD 1850. Present Hon. Maury Button, Judge. Whereas heretofore to wit on the 20th day of February AD 1850 Anthony C Rice, guardian of Azariah Cooley, an insane person of Pittsford in said District made application (p154) in writing to said Probate Court therein setting forth that the_____ Estate and the seat of the Real Estate of his said Ward are not sufficient to pay the debts of his said Ward besides defraying the experiences of maintaining his said Ward and family and that in order to procure assets sufficient to pay said debts it is necessary to sell so much of the Real Estate aforesaid as will raise about the sum of 500 dollars.



State of Vermont } Be it remembered that a special
District of Rutland ss } session of the Probate of the District
of Rutland held at Rutland in & for said District on the
8th day of May A.D. 1850. Present Hon. Maury Button Judge
Whereas heretofore to wit on the 20th day of February A.D. 1850
Anthony C Rice Guardian of Azariah Cooley an Insane
person of Pittsford in said District made application

[179] Marriage record LDS microfilm #10 p38, both of Greenwich Mass. Peter Rice b. 7 Jul 1748 in Leicester, Worcester Co, Province of Massachusetts Bay (The 1970 *Genealogical Register of Edmund Rice Descendants*, p. 118, gives 18 Jul 1748 at Spencer ('in Leicester VR'); the Edmund Rice Association's current database gives 7 Jul 1748 at Leicester, citing the published Leicester vital record); Peter d. 24 Mar 1814 in Pittsford, Rutland Co, Vermont (PITT p721); Margaret Cooley Winslow b. 13 Nov 1757 in Greenwich, Hampshire Co, Mass (Vol 1, 1747-1777; LDS #9-Greenwich, page 3); d. 31 Dec 1808 in Pittsford Rutland Co, Vermont (Gravestone has 31 Dec 1808, VVR states 29 Dec 1808)

[180] Azariah Cooley gravestone Meetinghouse Cemetery



AZARIAH COOLEY
DIED
Sept 5. 1852
in his 73 year

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[181] Greenwich was founded in July 1640 when settlers "purchased" land from the Native American sachems Amogerone and Anasappan at the convergence of Greenwich Cove and the Mianus River estuary. At this time, the area was known as Elizabeth's Neck (now Greenwich Point or Tod's Point) and the shores of Greenwich Cove in present-day Old Greenwich. Named Greenwich right from the start, the initial settlement operated independently before eventually aligning with the New Haven Colony. Just one year after Greenwich was founded, Stamford was established immediately to the east. For a brief period (1656–1664), Greenwich lost its individual town status and was absorbed as a parish under Stamford's jurisdiction. In 1664–1665, the General Court in Hartford restored Greenwich as a fully independent town. In 1672, Greenwich proprietors purchased the land west of the Mianus River, including the peninsula jutting south into Long Island Sound (now Field Point). Because that western territory was set aside as a common pasture for horses, the entire western half of Greenwich became known as Horseneck

[182] Mead p662

[183] Mead 663

[184] Merritt p16 Ref Poughkeepsie Lib 3, p149

[185] "New York, Land Records, 1630-1975", FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6JSW-5SRM : Sat Apr 12 03:54:56 UTC 2025), Entry for William Sutherland and Mary Barclay, 1772

[186] Information about Great Nine Partners was obtained from
https://everything.explained.today/%5C/Great_Nine_Partners_Patent
and
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Nine_Partners_Patent

[187] WIKI https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Nine_Partners_Patent

[188] WIKI https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bangall%2C_New_York

[189] Merritt p16

1. WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, said to be son of William of Scotland, was called *Junior* in Bangall record; also said to be son of David and Mary of Westchester Township, N. Y., 1698. Born perhaps 1690, died ; married 1720, Hannah, daughter of Avery; married 2nd . Bought land in Greenwich, Conn., about 16 Feb., 1723. William Sutherland, carpenter of Dutchess Co., mortgaged 206 acres, Lot No. 5 in Lot No. 17, Great Nine Partners, to Mary Barclay, 15 May, 1772 (Poughkeepsie, Lib. 3, p. 149).

[190] Mead p662

[1]WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, who according to family tradition was born in Scotland, bought land in the Town of Greenwich, Feb. 16, 1722, m. , and probably had:

[191] Mead p491

AVERY FAMILY.

The Genealogy of the Avery Family of Groton, Connecticut, by Homer DeLois Sweet, published in 1894, contains the genealogy of the Avery Family of Greenwich. It states that [1]Christopher Avery, a weaver, was born in England

[192] BADD p33-34

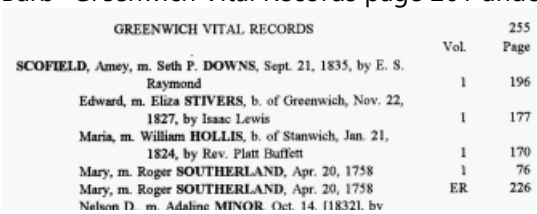
SOUTHERLAND (SUTHERLAND) - William Southerland and wife Margaret Toshak ? came to America from Scotland about 1684 possibly to Greenwich, Conn. Moved to New Windsor Precinct, Orange Co., New York abt. 1709. He died 1724.

CHILDREN
1 - David m. Mary MacGregorie dau. of Patrick d. 1778
2 - William

2. William, son of William[1], m. (1) Hannah Avery m. (2) unknown. Bought land in Horseneck, Greenwich, Conn., 16 Feb. 1722. Moved to Charlotte Precinct, Dutchess Co., New York, probably between 1755 and 1759. See Avery Family p. 21.

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[193] BADD p33
[194] A site on WikiTree asserts strongly that not only did William of Bangall have parents William and Margaret Toshach but he was married to Hannah Avery daughter of Edward Avery. Sources include several collections in private hands plus the usual Mead, Merritt, and Frederick Beckwith. https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Sutherland-288
[195] *The Groton Avery Clan* Vols I and II by Elroy McKendree Avery, 1844-1935 and Catharine Hitchcock Avery, 1844-1911; Cleveland, Ohio : [s.n.], 1912
[196] Mead (1911), pp. 662–663; CTVR pp. 267 [Sutherland entries for Vol. 1, pp. 30, 76, 107]; Casimir P. Stevens, *The Stevens Family of Fairfield County, Connecticut (1921)*, p. 8. Modern online tree assertions placing Charles' death in 1755 lack primary town, probate, or gravestone documentation
[197] The Stanwich Congregational Church, serving the backcountry farmsteads of Greenwich and North Stamford, was organized around 1731–1732 after the Connecticut General Court established the Stanwich Society (or Stanwich Parish). The parish was created for purely logistical reasons: farm families living in the northern hills faced a grueling 7- to 10-mile trek over rough dirt tracks down to shoreline meetinghouses for mandatory Sabbath services. To prove their viability, the founding families organized their early services and business meetings in a local one-room schoolhouse. Once established, the parish raised rates to construct its first dedicated wooden meetinghouse, which was completed around 1734.
[198] CTVR Greenwich 1640–1848, Vol. 16 (1996), p. 261
[199] Primary Greenwich town records and Barbour entries consistently record his first wife strictly as "Abigail" in such entries relating to their children as "Rodger [s. Roger & Abigail] b. Mar. 16 1743". Assertions attaching "Palmer" or "Finch" remain completely unverified by contemporary records. In fact, Finch may be the name of Rodger's wife, son of Roger and Mary.
[200] Barb "Greenwich Vital Records page 261 under Sunderlin and page 255 under Scofield/Southerland 20 Apr 1758



GREENWICH VITAL RECORDS 255

	Vol.	Page
SCOFIELD, Amey, m. Seth P. **DOWNS**, Sept. 21, 1835, by E. S. Raymond	1	196
Edward, m. Eliza **STIVERS**, b. of Greenwich, Nov. 22, 1827, by Isaac Lewis	1	177
Maria, m. William **HOLLIS**, b. of Stanwich, Jan. 21, 1824, by Rev. Platt Buffett	1	170
Mary, m. Roger **SOUTHERLAND**, Apr. 20, 1758	1	76
Mary, m. Roger **SOUTHERLAND**, Apr. 20, 1758	ER	226
Nelson D., m. Adaline **MINOR**, Oct. 14, [1832], by		

[201] DAR Patriotic Service Record, Ancestor #A111158
[202] *Stamford Probate District, Wills* Vol. 9, p. 173 (Will of Roger Sutherland, 1798);
[203] Findagrave, Memorial ID 42360131 bur. Middle Patent Rural Cemetery, North Castle, Westchester County New York; has gravestone picture
[204] WIKI Amenia is currently a town with a population of about 3800 (2020 census) in Dutchess County, New York. Under the 18th-century reorganization of the Great Nine Partners Patent in Dutchess County, the easternmost portion known as the Oblong was set off on March 20, 1762, to form Amenia Precinct a designation it retained throughout the Revolutionary War period. It was formally incorporated into a town alongside other New York municipalities on March 7, 1788, when a general state organization act officially divided counties into townships instead of precincts.

In the summer of 1778 a large number of Hessian prisoners, taken at the battle of Saratoga the year before, were marched through Amenia on their way to Fishkill Landing where they were to cross the Hudson River. It is said that some of the Hessian soldiers solicited the people to aid them in deserting from the British army; a few succeeded, and remained in this country.

The author's 4th great grandfather, Christoph Bronhaus was a Hessian soldier who was imprisoned in Frederick Maryland, released in 1783 and who elected to stay (technically "desert") eventually residing in Loudoun County Virginia
[205] *History of Dutchess County, New York with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers* by James Hadden Smith; Syracuse, N.Y. D. Mason & Co. 1882; pp 353-54
[206] Merritt p16; Interestingly Douglas Merritt devoted 10 pages to David Sutherland, mostly relating to his will and the subsequent rejection of that will by his children and grandchildren
[207] Ibid p16
[208] Mead p664
[209] Merritt p16. Col. David's first wife, Mead and WikiTree designate her as Judith Griffin, whereas Merritt cites a Family Bible identifying her as Judith Palmer (1724–1790). Because the 1794 will was bypassed via private family agreement, no formal probate record exists in Poughkeepsie court books; the original unproved document and receipts survive solely through private family collections recorded by Merritt.

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[210] Merritt p16; Spencer Mead did not mention a second wife for David; only Judith Griffin
[211] Merritt pp 18-19. Indenture 26 Jun 1793
[212] Merritt pp 17-26 Last Will and Testament of David Sutherland (unproved, written 13 Mar 1794); Heirs' Quitclaim Receipts and Settlement Papers (1794–1818), transcribed in Douglas Merritt, *Sutherland Records* (1918)
[213] Merritt pp 17-26
[214] Merritt p18. Legal Opinion of John V. Henry, Esq. Albany, 30 May 1815
[215] Mead p664, Merritt pp 16-26. Primary estate receipts executed 15 Apr 1794 and 1794–1795 directly disprove Spencer Mead (1911), who erroneously asserted that daughter Hannah married Isaac Smith and daughter Sarah married Martin Vansburg. Hannah signed jointly with husband William J. (or T.) Sutherland, while Sarah's share was distributed to her four Germond sons (Peter, Silas Jr., Obadiah, and Reuben Germond)
[216] Merritt p24. Estate Accounting for Old Roger (filed 1 May 1817 by Mary Sutherland, Admin. of Joel D. Sutherland)
[217] Ibid
[218] Merritt pp 21-24 and p36
[219] Merritt, p7 Douglas Merritt listed $William_2$ (indicating the son of $William_1$) erroneously assigning him birth/death dates of 1745–1826, conflating him with a nephew of the same name, and that he "lived at Stanford NY" also erroneous. The correct $William_2$ appears on page 60 "Sutherlands of Westchester County". Spencer Mead's 1911 accounting, anchored directly to the 1761 Westchester probate record, is far more persuasive and neatly explains why William Jr. never appeared in Great Nine Partners deed books
[220] WIKI North Castle began as an early-18th-century farming settlement holding its first town meeting in 1736. It was incorporated in 1788 before its northern half became New Castle in 1791. Its name comes from a Siwanoy Native American defensive embankment on a hill named "North Fort". That hill is now occupied by IBM headquarters. By the 1730s families from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and nearby Quaker communities established farms along routes linking Bedford and Rye shaping a self-reliant agrarian township. Though officially "neutral" during the Revolution, the area hosted Washington's headquarters at the Elijah Miller House, militia activity at Smith's Tavern, fortifications on Chatterton Hill during the Battle of White Plains, and the temporary detention of Major John André at Wright's Mill. Today North Castle encompasses Armonk, Banksville, and North White Plains retaining its layered colonial and Revolutionary heritage within a modern suburban landscape.
[221] Findagrave, Memorial ID 42360190 - Picture of ancient eroded stone and a plaque beneath it with inscription "William Sutherland 1714–1761 / Vestryman Christ's Church Rye" which is a much later addition placed by a patriotic or historical society. Rye and North Castle were directly connected in the colonial era through ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Under the Ministry Act of 1693, Christ Church in Rye was the seat of the mother parish covering eastern Westchester County, including Rye, White Plains, Mamaroneck, and North Castle. Consequently, prominent Anglican residents of North Castle served on the vestry at Christ Church in Rye.
[222] Regarding Joseph Sutherland, Mead (p. 664) provides only an estimated birth date of c. 1730, while Merritt leaves all dates blank. As noted by Mark Sutherland Fisher in modern WikiTree analyses, no primary land, tax, church, or probate records have been identified in Connecticut or New York to verify Joseph's placement as a son of William of Bangall
[223] WIKI John Peter Zenger was a German printer and journalist who published The New York Weekly Journal, criticizing the colonial governor William Cosby. He was accused of libel in 1734 and acquitted by a jury in 1735, setting a precedent for freedom of the press in America. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Peter_Zenger
[224] WIKI The First Great Awakening (only labeled as the first when the second great awakening occurred in 1790) was a series of Christian revivals that swept Britain and its 13 North American colonies in the 1730s and 1740s. It marked the emergence of Anglo-American evangelicalism as a trans-denominational movement within the Protestant churches. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Great_Awakening
[225] Merritt p16
[226] Mead p664
[227] Merritt p26

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[228] Mead p664 "John, b. July 3 1735, removed to Dutchess County NY..."

² John, b. July 3, 1735, removed to Dutchess County, N. Y., d. June 10, 1817, m. 1st, Jan., 1755, Mary Germond, b. Oct. 2, 1733, d. Sept. 3, 1789, m. 2d, Feb. 22, 1790, Jerusha Stanley of Lee, Mass., b. July 23, 1756, d. Nov. 4, 1835, and had by 1st wife:

JOHN² SUTHERLAND, son of William¹, married Jan., 1755, Mary, daughter of Germond. She was born 2 Oct., 1733; died 3 Sept., 1789; married 2nd 22 Feb., 1790, Jerusha, daughter of Stanley of Lee, Mass. She was born 23 July, 1756; died 4 Nov., 1835. He moved from Nine Partners about 1766 to Proctor on Otter Creek, Rutland, Vt., and built mills there; 199 acres were surveyed for him on east side of the creek 1 Apr., 1779, and 116 acres in 1786. Lieutenant and Member of State Committee 4 June, 1777. Served in Col. Warner's Regiment 7 Nov., 1778 or 81.

[229] Example

252 DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

John Sutherland (1735-1817) served as private and lieutenant under Capt. Simeon Wright and Col. Gideon Warren, Vermont militia; also delegate to the General Convention, Vermont. He was born at Nine Partners, Dutchess County, N. Y.; died in Rutland County, Vt.

Also No. 149302.

[230] WIKI https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Hampshire_Grants

[231] *New Hampshire State Papers*, Volume XXVI by Albert Stillman Batchellor, Concord, New Hampshire; *Colonial Land Records*, New Hampshire Secretary of State Office, Concord, New Hampshire; *Vermont Place-Names: Footprints of History*, by Esther Munroe Swift, Montpelier Vermont, 1996. Chartered: Rutland Sept 7th 1761, Pittsford Oct 12th 1761, and Neshobe (Brandon) Oct 20th 1761

[232] https://greenmountainboys.weebly.com/fighting-the-yorkers.htm

[233] Skenesborough was founded in 1759 when it was settled by a land grant to a British officer Philip Skene who was subsequently declared an enemy of the State of New York for his land dealings. During the American Revolution Skenesborough was captured by American forces on May 9, 1775 where Gen Benedict Arnold under Gen Philip Schuyler built a fleet of vessels to confront British forces at Valcour Island. British General John Burgoyne led his forces through this area en route to the Battle of Saratoga. After the war, the town's name was changed to Whitehall.

[234] Merritt p. 26 Mead, p. 664; Both give January 1755; neither cites a source

[235] New York began statewide registration of births, marriages, and deaths ("vital records") in 1880-81, under supervision of the State and local boards of health. Compliance with the law was incomplete until 1913 or even later; therefore certificates are lacking for many events. An 1847 law required the school districts in each town to collect vital statistics but they ceased doing so after a few years. The State Archives and State Department of Health hold no records created under the 1847 law. New York State Archives https://www.archives.nysed.gov/research/birth-marriage-death-records

[236] FamilySearch has *Historical sketch of the First Stanford Baptist Church at Bangall, Dutchess County, N.Y.* on microfilm, not digitized yet

[237] Quakers began migrating northward from the Oblong, arriving in the central portions of the Nine Partners Patent, today's Millbrook, in the 1740's. Here they found solitude, fertile lands, water power and access to established routes connecting the central and eastern interior to the Hudson River https://www.meetinghousetour.com/9-partners.html

[238] The Germond name is fundamentally French in origin, rooted in medieval personal names like Germain/Germund, and its earliest bearers appear in France and Normandy. By the 17th century, people with this name (and its close variants) were present in northern and western France, and some migrated into England after the Norman period.

[239] The persecution of the French Huguenots intensified across the 17th century as the Catholic monarchy sought religious uniformity, culminating in Louis XIV's Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. This act outlawed Protestant worship, closed churches and schools, confiscated property, and forced children into Catholic instruction, while dragonnades, billeting soldiers in Protestant homes, were used to coerce conversions. Although emigration was formally banned, an estimated 180,000 Huguenots escaped France between roughly 1680 and 1715 in what became known as the Great Refuge. They resettled across Protestant Europe, especially England, the Dutch Republic, and German states, and in overseas colonies such as New York, Virginia, South Carolina, and the Cape of Good Hope, carrying with them skilled trades, literacy, and commercial expertise that significantly shaped the societies that received them.

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[240] The Germond family's presence in Dutchess County, New York, reflects the larger Huguenot diaspora that left France when King Louis XIV outlawed Protestantism. An estimated 180,000 Huguenots fled between 1680 and 1715 in what became known as the Great Refuge. In New York, Huguenot refugees established communities at New Rochelle, Staten Island, and in the Hudson Valley, where families such as the Germonds secured land in the Beekman Patent and gave their name to Germond Hill.

[241] Buck - Deeds from the TerBoss survey of April 1740 onward; earmark register, entries signed by Isaac Germond November 1753 through March 1759. Will: Estate 105, drawn 13 June 1760, "Isaac Germond, yeoman, Crum Elbow," naming sons Isaac, Peter, John and James and daughters Mary Filkin and Sarah Hewstead; proved 20 May 1763 (NY 6:234)

[242] Buck - Earmark register, Thomas Gag, recorded 15 April 1772 by Peter Germond, town clerk. Peter was taxed in Charlotte precinct 1775-1778 (Estate 108), and Charlotte is the ground on which these deeds sit

[243] Buck - Earmark register, recorded 29 April 1772: "Silas Germond son of Peter Germond ear mark is a latch the underside of the right ear."

[244] Buck - Mortgage 243, Liber 3:149, 15 May 1772, William Southerland to Mary Barclay, Leonard Lispenard and Anthony S. Rutgers, L330, Lot 17 subdivision lot 5, 206 acres, cancelled 6 July 1795; Mortgage 261, Liber 3:241, 22 October 1772, Silas German to the same three, L341, Lot 17 Rutgers share, 213 acres, cancelled 13 December 1794

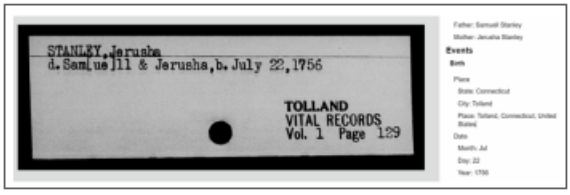
[245] Buck - p. 279 (the Bangall parcel); p. 472 (Silas Germond Jr. of Stanford to Solomon Southerland of Poughkeepsie, L600, Lots 18, 19 and 20)

[246] BADD p. 34. The three wills are Estates 105 (Isaac, four sons), 106 (James, seven), 107 (John, six). A search of the whole volume returns the name Silas Germond eleven times, the earliest the earmark of 29 April 1772; the spellings Germain and Germaine return nothing. Beckwith's informant was Aaron F. Randall of Boston, a great-grandson of John Sutherland, writing in 1908-11 about a marriage of 1755--five generations of oral transmission, which is long enough for a name to survive intact while the relationship attached to it drifts

[247] *A Thousand and a Half Sutherlands* by Neil S. Sutherland; Ch 1, Isabella Germain Sutherland (1797) and Silas Germain Sutherland (1816), children of Silas Sutherland b. 3 August 1772

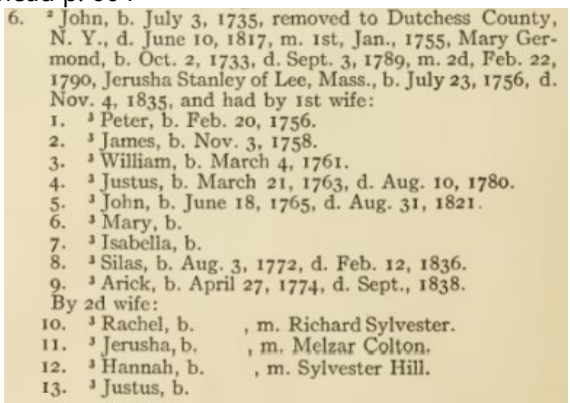
[248] Family History Library; Salt Lake City, UT; Film # 0962278 item 2; Jerusha Stanley; Marriage Date: Feb 1790; Place: Lee, Berkshire Co, Massachusetts; Spouse: John Sutherland; Original data: Dodd, Jordan, Liahona Research, comp. *Massachusetts Marriages, 1633-1850;* Ancestry.com. *Massachusetts, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1633-1850* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005

[249] Tolland Vital Records, Vol 1, p129; Jerusha Stanley dau Samll & Jerusha b. July 22 1756


STANLEY, Jerusha
d. Sam[ue]ll & Jerusha, b. July 22, 1756
TOLLAND
VITAL RECORDS
Vol. 1 Page 129

[250] Merritt p. 26

[251] Mead p. 664


6. [2] John, b. July 3, 1735, removed to Dutchess County, N. Y., d. June 10, 1817, m. 1st, Jan., 1755, Mary Germond, b. Oct. 2, 1733, d. Sept. 3, 1789, m. 2d, Feb. 22, 1790, Jerusha Stanley of Lee, Mass., b. July 23, 1756, d. Nov. 4, 1835, and had by 1st wife:
1. [3] Peter, b. Feb. 20, 1756.
2. [3] James, b. Nov. 3, 1758.
3. [3] William, b. March 4, 1761.
4. [3] Justus, b. March 21, 1763, d. Aug. 10, 1780.
5. [3] John, b. June 18, 1765, d. Aug. 31, 1821.
6. [3] Mary, b.
7. [3] Isabella, b.
8. [3] Silas, b. Aug. 3, 1772, d. Feb. 12, 1836.
9. [3] Arick, b. April 27, 1774, d. Sept., 1838.
By 2d wife:
10. [3] Rachel, b. , m. Richard Sylvester.
11. [3] Jerusha, b. , m. Melzar Colton.
12. [3] Hannah, b. , m. Sylvester Hill.
13. [3] Justus, b.

[252] Merritt p. 26

JOHN[2] SUTHERLAND, son of William[1], married Jan., 1755, Mary, daughter of Germond. She was born 2 Oct., 1733; died 3 Sept., 1789; married 2nd 22 Feb., 1790, Jerusha, daughter of Stanley of Lee, Mass. She was born 23 July, 1756; died 4 Nov., 1835. He moved from Nine Partners about 1766 to Proctor on Otter Creek, Rutland, Vt., and built mills there; 199 acres were surveyed for him on east side of the creek 1 Apr., 1779, and 116 acres in 1786. Lieutenant and Member of State Committee 4 June, 1777. Served in Col. Warner's Regiment 7 Nov., 1778 or 81.

Children:

Peter[3], born	20 Feb., 1756,	died	
James, born	13 Nov., 1758,	died	
William, born	4 Mar., 1761,	died	
Justus, born	21 Mar., 1763,	died	10 Aug., 1789.
John, born	18 June, 1765,	died	31 Aug., 1831.
Mary, born	22 Oct., 1767,	died	; mar. Daniel Stanley.
Isabella, born	27 Sept., 1769,	died	
Silas, born	3 Aug., 1772,	died	12 Feb., 1835.
Eric, born	22 Apr., 1773,	died	Sept., 1838.
Rachel, born	7 Jan., 1791,	died	; mar. Richard Sylvester.
Jerusha, born	21 Dec., 1792,	died	17 Mar., 1876; mar. Melzar Colton.
Hannah, born	12 Sept., 1795,	died	5 Feb., 1862; mar. Sylvester Hills.
Justus, born	27 Sept., 1797,	died	6 Dec., 1873.

26

[253] Death notice *Rutland Weekly Herald*, 13 May 1828: Died in Staksborough, 6th inst, Mr. Peter Sutherland age 72, formerly of this town [Rutland].

[254] My numbering system to denote the third William Sutherland in my database, not William Sutherland-III

[255] First Justus Sutherland born to John William and Mary; the second Justus was to John William and Jerusha

[256] Mead's date is 27 Apr 1774 while Merritt's is 22 Apr 1773 much too close to the Silas' birth date of 3 Aug 1772

[257] Second Justus Sutherland born to John William and Jerusha; the first Justus was to John William and Mary

[258] There is an additional 10 feet of cascades just upstream that is counted as Sutherland Falls making the entire drop 98 feet

[259] World Waterfall Database https://www.worldwaterfalldatabase.com/waterfall/Sutherland-Falls-11590

[260] WIKI https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otter_Creek_(Vermont)

[261] MVB "Brimfield Births" p44, "Gideon, s. Benjamin Jr. and Elizabeth, Jan 30 1730-1"

[262] MTV "Greenwich #8 Births, Deaths, Marriages"; p13

[263] PITT pp26-27 AM Caverly places his cabin at the foot of the falls on the east side, fifteen rods northeast of what later became Samuel B. Loveland's residence. Gale confirms the location as a bluff near Gorham Bridge. Gideon eventually moved north toward Pittsford village as the Sutherland works took shape across the creek.

[264] *History of Rutland County Vermont with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers;* edited by H. Y. Smith & W. S. Rann, Syracuse, N. Y.; D. Mason & Co., Publishers 1886; Chapter XXXV "History Of The Town Of Pittsford" pp726-766

[265] Hance p491

[266] WIKI The Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, were the first major military actions between the British Army and Patriot militias from British America's Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolutionary War. The opposing forces fought day-long running battles in Middlesex County in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in the towns of Lexington, Concord, Lincoln, Menotomy (present-day Arlington), and Cambridge.

[267] Gale p29

[268] Hance p505

[269] Hance p491

[270] Vermont in the Making by Matt Bushnell Jones, 1750–1777 (1939): Chapter 2 specifically analyzes the 129 township charters issued by Benning Wentworth, his standard reservation of 500 acres for himself in every grant, and his patent fee collections.

[271] *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York* (O'Callaghan), Duke of York 1664 Patent Claim reflecting New York's stance that its eastern boundary was the Connecticut River.

[272] *Records of the Governor and Council of the State of Vermont* by E. P. Walton Vol. 1, pp. 493–494. Order in Council (July 20, 1764): King George III in Council fixed the western bank of the Connecticut River as the boundary

[273] *Ethan Allen: Frontier Rebel* by Charles A. Jellison, 1969 and *History of Vermont* by Hiland Hall, 1868. Both document the New York land ring involving James Duane, John Morin Scott, Attorney General Kempe, and Governors Colden and Tryon, detailing how New York treated Wentworth titles as nullities and demanded repurchase fees from existing settlers.

[274] 1770 Albany Ejectment Trials (Small v. Carpenter): Heard before the New York Supreme Court of Judicature in Albany in June 1770; Ethan Allen served as defense agent for the Hampshire settlers, where the court refused to admit Wentworth charters into evidence

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[275] *The Reluctant Republic* by Frederic F. Van de Water, 1941. Covers the militia enforcement of the Green Mountain Boys and the specific application of the "beech seal" (flogging with beech rods) against New York surveyors and magistrates.
[276] Rolls The roster and documentary appendix regarding the Green Mountain Boys and the men under Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga appear on pp. 830–835.
[277] *Records of the Governor and Council* by Eliakim Persons Walton; Vol. 1, pp. 37–51.
[278] Hance p18. In a letter from Will Cockburn to James Duane, the primary force behind the New York patent of Socialborough and employer of Cockburn, "...within about two miles of the Great Falls I have found it in vain to persist any longer...there have been many threats pronounced against me, Gideon Cooley, who lives by the Great Falls, was to shoot me and...Allen was in the woods with another party blacked and dressed like Indians..."
[279] Hance p398
[280] Gale p28
[281] *The New England Historical And Genealogical Register* Vol. LXII, January, 1908 Boston: Published By The New England Historic Genealogical Society. p101. Author's note: Randall's contention that Tory rumors about John William Sutherland were "utterly false" is not supported by citing his Revolutionary War records
[282] Rolls p97
[283] Ibid p102
[284] Ibid p451
[285] Rolls p154-155
[286] Rolls p192 A Pay Roll of a Detachment of Men, being a part of the non- commissioned officers and soldiers of two companies raised as a levy from Col. Thomas Lee's Regiment of Militia, for the defense of the Frontiers of the State of Vermont in October, 1781, stationed at Castleton...
[287] FamilySearch, *Land Records 1762–1801*, Wallingford (not indexed), deed bearing date the 12 August 1794, Recorded March the 3d 1800
[288] FamilySearch, *New York, Land Records 1630-1975*; Madison "Deeds 1817–1819", vol N-O > image 213 of 587; multiple county courthouses, New York.
[289] Mead p664
[290] Merritt p26, Mead p664
[291] https://history.nycourts.gov/case/crown-v-prendergast/ The manorial system of land tenure, first introduced to New York by the Dutch, was continued under English rule. Patents to huge tracts of land were granted to a few powerful colonists who in turn granted leases that provided for a perpetual rent to the farmers who worked the land. Failure to pay the rent resulted in ejection from the property. Also, without freehold title, many farmers could not meet the property qualifications to vote in elections and serve on juries. A governmental proclamation issued on April 30, 1766, offered a reward for the seizure of specifically named leaders of the farmers' movement, including William Prendergast. By the end of June, 1766, the movement involved approximately 1,700 armed tenant farmers. They were known as "levelers," because they believed that their equitable claim to the land should be recognized and their leases converted into fee simple titles. On June 20th, the Governor's Council sent the Twenty-Eighth Regiment to disperse the crowd and arrest the leaders. William Prendergast was detained on a charge of treason and taken to a New York prison.
[292] John William started the enterprise in 1775. Peter and John Jr were portioned in 1778
[293] Hance p505
[294] Ibid p491
[295] Hance p505 "It is said that Peter failed to inherit the business acumen of his father. However, it is documented that Peter suffered setbacks through no fault of his own."
[296] 1790 Census Surname spelled Southerland; 5 males over 16, 2 under 16, 5 females, total 12



[297] 1800 Census Surname spelled Southerlin; just two unknown

STATE: Vermont	1800 Federal Census	MICROFILM SERIES
COUNTY OR PARISH: Rutland	TOWNSHIP/TOWN/ OR CITY: Rutland	DATE OF ENUMERATION

Page	Head of Family	Free White Males: Under 10	10–15	16–25	26–44	45 & Over	Free White Females: Under 10	10–15	16–25	26–44	45 & Over	All other persons except Indians not taxed	Slaves	Remarks
	Southelin Peter	1	1		1		3	2		1				

Unknown; Peter Jr. (15); Peter Sr (44); Rebecca (9), Amy (4), Fanny (2); Jane (13) and unknown; Amy Carroll age unknown

The U.S. Government did not furnish uniform printed schedules until 1830. As a result census returns may vary, and sometimes give more information. This schedule reflects the prescribed questions outlined by the 1800 census act.



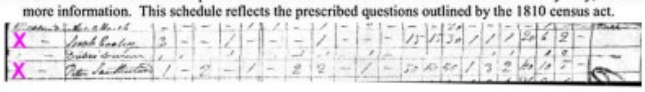
[298] 1810 Census Peter Southerland

STATE: Vermont	1810 Federal Census	MICROFILM SERIES
COUNTY OR PARISH: Rutland	TOWNSHIP/TOWN/ OR CITY: Rutland	DATE OF ENUMERATION: 6 Aug 1810

Page	Head of Family	Free White Males: Under 10	10–15	16–25	26–44	45 & Over	Free White Females: Under 10	10–15	16–25	26–44	45 & Over	All other persons except Indians not taxed	Slaves	Remarks
	Peter Southerland	1		2		1		2	2		1			

Unknown; Unknown; Peter Sr (54); Fanny (12), Amy (14); Rebecca (19), unknown; Amy Carroll (age unknown)

The U.S. Government did not furnish uniform printed schedules until 1830. As a result census returns may vary, and sometimes give more information. This schedule reflects the prescribed questions outlined by the 1810 census act.



[299] Merritt p29

PETER[3] SUTHERLAND, son of John[2], married Carroll, widow of Bush. Lived at Nine Partners. Said to have moved away about 1820. Died at Sutherland Falls.

Children:

Andrew[4], born	1776, died	1836.	
Peter, born	, died		
Jane, born	, died		
Amy, born	, died		; mar. Riedal.
Fannie, born	, died		; mar. Thomas Pool.
Rebecca, born	, died		

[300] CG p492; no marriage document exists

[301] Merritt p34

PETER[4] SUTHERLAND, son of Peter[3], married (?) He went to the South to teach music.

Children (?)

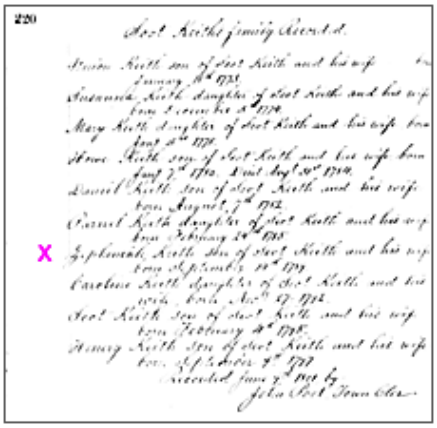
302 Music in Colonial America
https://revolutionarywarjournal.com/music-in-colonial-america

303 Yellow Fever in New Orleans
https://nolacityarchives.org/2025/12/03/yellow-fever-in-new-orleans/#gsc.tab=0

[304] Estimated from the birth year of their first child, Gustavus b. 1816

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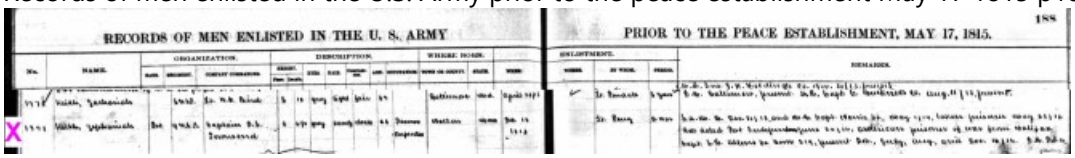
[305] WIKI Zephaniah is both a given name and surname. The name is of Hebrew origin and it means "God has hidden".
[306] MTV "Scot Keith's family Recorded p220 September 14th 1789


220

Scot Keith's family Recorded.

Simon Keith son of Scot Keith and his wife
Jenny A.D. 1773.
Susanna Keith daughter of Scot Keith and his wife
born December A.D. 1774.
Mary Keith daughter of Scot Keith and his wife born
June A.D. 1777.
Amos Keith son of Scot Keith and his wife born
Aug. 7th 1780. Died Sept. 30th 1780.
Daniel Keith son of Scot Keith and his wife
born August 7th 1782.
Parnel Keith daughter of Scot Keith and his wife
born February 14th 1785.
X Zephaniah Keith Son of Scot Keith and his wife
born September 10th 1787.
Caroline Keith daughter of Scot Keith and his
wife born Nov. 17 1791.
Scot Keith Son of Scot Keith and his wife
born February A.D. 1798.
Henry Keith Son of Scot Keith and his wife
born of Libia 7th 1797
Recorded June 7th 1797 by
John Bell Town Clerk

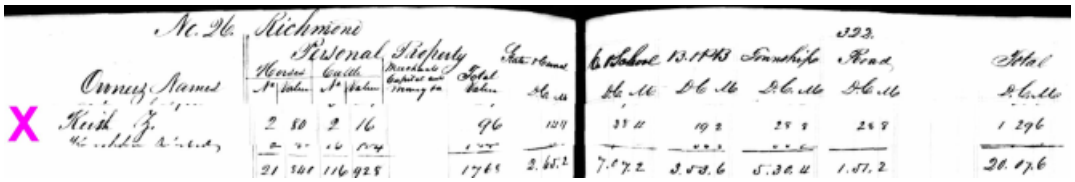
[307] Records of men enlisted in the U.S. Army prior to the peace establishment May 17 1815 p188


RECORDS OF MEN ENLISTED IN THE U. S. ARMY

PRIOR TO THE PEACE ESTABLISHMENT, MAY 17, 1815.

188

[308] Ohio Tax Records 1800-1850 FHL Fil Nr 514141 Ref ID 322 Z Keith 1835


No. 96 Richmond

322.

Personal Property

Owners Names

X Keith Z.

[309] U.S. Census 1850 Ohio, Ashtabula, Kingsville, Zephaniah, age 60, tavern keeper; Rebecca age 59; Frank, 26; Simeon, 21; Almira, 18; and a Mary Ann Titus age 20
[310] Findagrave Memorial ID 230359058 with gravestone picture

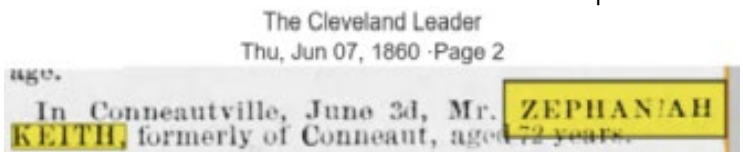

REBEKAH

wife of

ZEPHENIAH KEITH

died

[311] Death Notice The Cleveland Leader June 7th 1860 p2


The Cleveland Leader

Thu, Jun 07, 1860 · Page 2

In Conneautville, June 3d, Mr. ZEPHANIAH KEITH, formerly of Conneaut, aged 72 years.

[312] Findagrave Memorial ID 2300359040 with gravestone picture



[313] Merritt p29

[314] Name given as "Jr" in *The record of births, marriages and deaths and intentions of marriage, in the town of Stoughton from 1727 to 1800* [FamilySearch online database]. Therefore I have listed his father as George C. Riedel Sr, husband of Amy Sutherland

[315] 1850 US census, NY Niagara, Lewiston age 33; 1860 US census MI Jackson Co, Jackson age 44 for estimated birth year of 1816

[316] Michigan Transcript, Detroit, Wayne County, Sept 22 1876

[317] Marriage estimate based on birth year of first child, William Pool b. about 1825 from censuses

[318] MTV "Abington Births" Tho[ma]s Pool, son of Acish and Susannah p170

[319] Findagrave Memorial ID 30766233, gravestone has exact dates of birth and death

[320] New York Death Index 1850-1956, New York Dept of Health, Albany NY; Ancestry database 2017; 1886 p431

[321] Rutland Weekly Herald, 6 Jan 1795, Philadelphia, Rutland, Vt. Gideon Cooley sold 2000 acres in Philadelphia, Vermont, to him for the sum of £150. The acreage consisted of the "Rights" of several individuals. Note: There has never been a Philadelphia Vermont

[322] *Rutland Weekly Herald*, Rutland, Vermont, 30 Mar 1795, p3

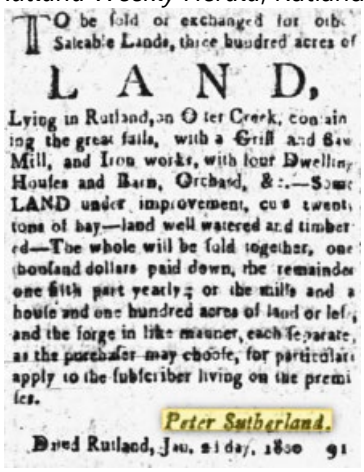
[323] Ibid 28 April 1795

[324] Ibid 25 May 1796, Philadelphia, Rutland, Vt.

[325] Ibid 31 July 1799, Philadelphia, Rutland, Vt.

[326] WIKI - Fulling, also known as tucking or walking (Scots: waukin, hence often spelt waulking in Scottish English), is a step in woollen cloth making that involves the cleansing of woven cloth to eliminate lanolin, oils, dirt, and other impurities, and to make it shrink by friction and pressure. The final product is a smooth, tightly finished fabric that is insulating and water-repellent.

[327] *Rutland Weekly Herald*, Rutland, Vermont, 10 Mar 1800, Mon, p4


TO be sold or exchanged for oth
Saleable Lands, three hundred acres of

LAND,

Lying in Rutland, on Otter Creek, containing the great falls, with a Grist and Saw Mill, and Iron works, with four Dwelling Houses and Barn, Orchard, &c.—Some LAND under improvement, cut twenty tons of hay—land well watered and timbered—The whole will be sold together, one thousand dollars paid down, the remainder one fifth part yearly; or the mills and a house and one hundred acres of land or less, and the forge in like manner, each separate, as the purchaser may choose, for particulars apply to the subscriber living on the premises.

Peter Sutherland.

Dated Rutland, Jan. 21 day, 1800 91

[328] A carding machine pulls fleece between two paddle-like hand cards studded with bent wire teeth, working the fibers into parallel alignment, and rolling them off into loose rolags ready for spinning

[329] Hance p150, p505

[330] Hance p70. On 24 September 1807 the carding machine at Sutherland Falls (Proctor) owned by Peter Sutherland and Aaron Thrall was destroyed by fire.

[331] Rutland Herald, Oct 17 2018 "The freshet: Recalling the 'dreadful deluge' of 1811" by Don Wickman https://www.rutlandherald.com/news/the-freshet-recalling-the-dreadful-deluge-of-1811/article_c35cd56f-0ca4-5e3a-8864-ca0e23c395c8.html

[332] *Rutland Weekly Herald* March 1813

[333] Ibid Aug 25 1813

[334] *Vermont Republican and Journal* Oct 30 1815. Cornwall is a small, rural town about 34 miles north-northwest of Proctor

[335] *Rutland Weekly Herald* May 7 1817 p1

[336] Hance pp361-62

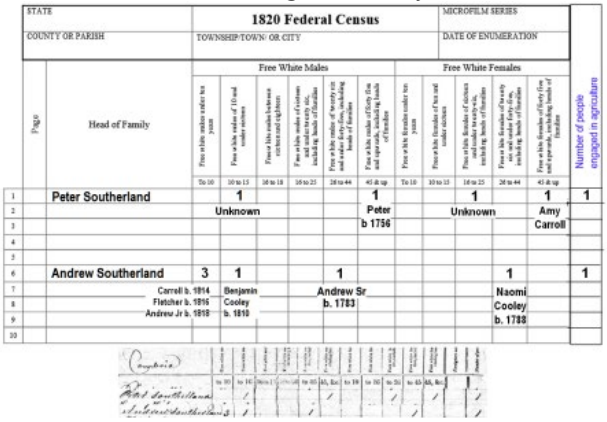
[337] Ibid

[338] Gale p52

[339] Ibid

[340] Ibid

[341] US Census, New York, Niagara County, Cambria



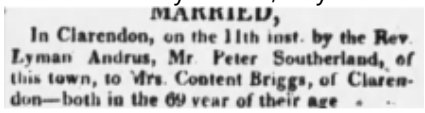
STATE	1820 Federal Census	MICROFILM SERIES
COUNTY OR PARISH	TOWNSHIP/TOWN/ OR CITY	DATE OF ENUMERATION

Free White Males / Free White Females

Page	Head of Family	Free white males under ten years	Free white males of 10 and under sixteen	Free white males between sixteen and sixteen	Free white males of sixteen and under twenty-six, including heads of families	Free white males of twenty-six and under forty-five, including heads of families	Free white males of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families	Free white females under ten years	Free white females of ten and under sixteen	Free white females of sixteen and under twenty-six, including heads of families	Free white females of twenty-six and under forty-five, including heads of families	Free white females of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families	Number of people engaged in agriculture
		To 10	10 to 15	16 to 18	16 to 25	26 to 44	45 & up	To 10	10 to 15	16 to 25	26 to 44	45 & up	
1	Peter Southerland		1				1			1		1	1
2			Unknown				Peter b 1756			Unknown		Amy Carroll	
3													
4													
5													1
6	Andrew Southerland	3	1			1					1		1
7	Carrell b. 1814		Benjamin			Andrew Sr					Naomi		
8	Fletcher b. 1816		Cooley			b. 1783					Cooley		
9	Andrew Jr b. 1818		b. 1810								b. 1788		
10													

[342] Dawn D. Hance, *Early Families of Rutland, Vermont (*1990), cited for the 25 Jul 1822 Clarendon deed identifying Peter Sutherland as "of Clarendon, late of Cambria, New York". This is a second-hand citation; I have not personally examined the underlying deed.

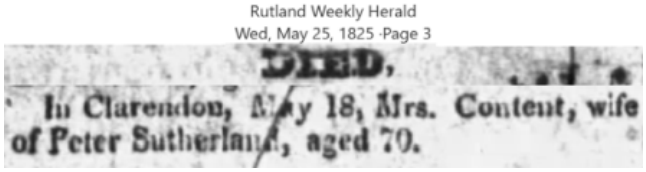
[343] Rutland Weekly Herald, July 20 1824 p3



MARRIED,

In Clarendon, on the 11th inst. by the Rev. Lyman Andrus, Mr. Peter Southerland, of this town, to Mrs. Content Briggs, of Clarendon—both in the 69 year of their age

[344] *Rutland Weekly Herald*



Rutland Weekly Herald
Wed, May 25, 1825 -Page 3

DIED,

In Clarendon, May 18, Mrs. Content, wife of Peter Sutherland, aged 70.

[345] *Rutland Weekly Herald* 8 Sep 1825 p3

[346] Ibid 13 May 1828 p3



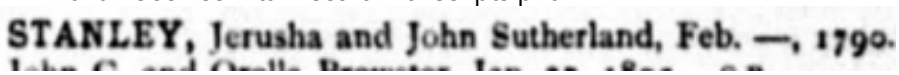
Died.

In Starksborough, 6th inst. Mr. Peter Sutherland, aged 72, formerly of this town.

In Starksborough, 6th inst. Mr. Peter Sutherland, aged 72, formerly of this town [Rutland].

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[347] MTV 1620-1988 Lee Vital Record Transcripts p162


STANLEY, Jerusha and John Sutherland, Feb. —, 1790.

[348] Merritt p26 is the source for these children

[349] PITT "Noah Cooley, son of Col. Benjamin, married Jane, daughter of Peter Sutherland, 24 Jan 1804"

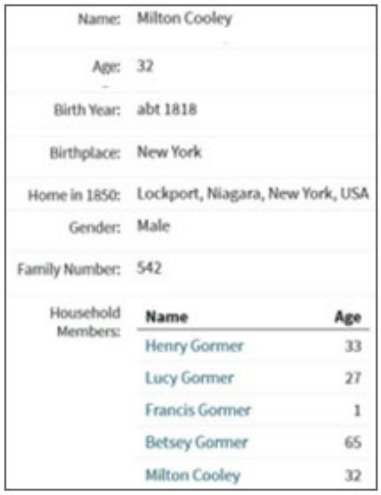
[350] Ibid p29 the brothers traveled with Gideon's family by horseback in May, carrying their possessions in sacks. Their "humble log cabin" marked the first permanent Euro-American settlement in Pittsford.

[351] CG p492

[352] MemAge

[353] Britannica - *Embargo Act, (1807*) was U.S. Pres. Thomas Jefferson's nonviolent resistance to British and French molestation of U.S. merchant ships carrying, or suspected of carrying, war materials, and other cargoes to European belligerents during the Napoleonic Wars. All U.S. ports were closed to export shipping in either U.S. or foreign vessels, and restrictions were placed on imports from Great Britain. The act was a hardship on U.S. farmers as well as on New England and New York mercantile and maritime interests. Confronted by bitter and articulate opposition, Jefferson on March 1, 1809 (two days before the end of his second term), signed the Non-Intercourse Act, permitting U.S. trade with countries other than France and Great Britain.

[354] 1850 US Census, NY, Niagara Co, Lockport

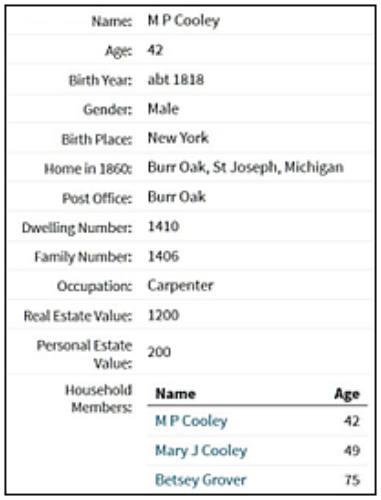


Name:	Milton Cooley
Age:	32
Birth Year:	abt 1818
Birthplace:	New York
Home in 1850:	Lockport, Niagara, New York, USA
Gender:	Male
Family Number:	542

Household Members:

Name	Age
Henry Gormer	33
Lucy Gormer	27
Francis Gormer	1
Betsey Gormer	65
Milton Cooley	32

[355] 1860 US Census, MI, St Joseph, Burr Oak



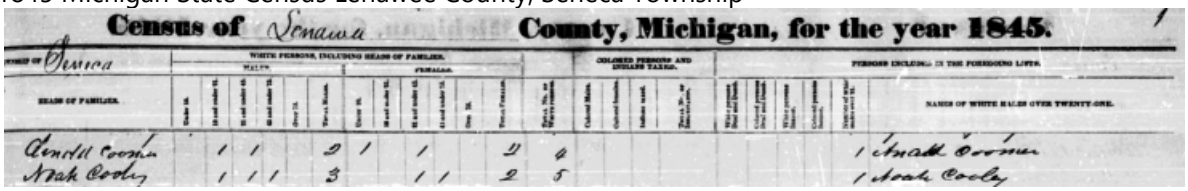
Name:	M P Cooley
Age:	42
Birth Year:	abt 1818
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	New York
Home in 1860:	Burr Oak, St Joseph, Michigan
Post Office:	Burr Oak
Dwelling Number:	1410
Family Number:	1406
Occupation:	Carpenter
Real Estate Value:	1200
Personal Estate Value:	200

Household Members:

Name	Age
M P Cooley	42
Mary J Cooley	49
Betsey Grover	75

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[356] 1845 Michigan State Census Lenawee County, Seneca Township



Census of Senawa County, Michigan, for the year 1845.

Seneca

Heads of Families	White persons, including heads of families: Males	White persons, including heads of families: Females	Colored persons and Indians taxed.	Persons including in the foregoing lists.	Names of white males over twenty-one.
Arnold Coomer	1 1	2 1 1		4	1 Arnold Coomer
Noah Cooley	1 1 1	3 1 1		2 5	1 Noah Cooley

[357] MIGenWeb, Lenawee County

US Federal Mortality Schedule, 1850; Seneca Twp., Lenawee Co, MI

The Name of Every Person Who Died During the Year Ending 1st June, 1850, Whose Usual Place of Abode at the Time of His Death was in this Family.

Name	Age	Sex	M/W	Place of Birth	Month of death	Occupation	Cause of Death	# days ill
DEAN, Heziah S.	13	Fe	*	Michigan	Oct, 1849	*	not known	3
PORTER, Francis H.	4	M	*	Michigan	Sept., 1849	*	dysentery	8
BARNES, Collins W.	47	M	M	New York	April, 1850	farmer	consumption	90
BARNES, Almira	18	Fe	*	New York	Feb., 1850	*	lung fever	16
PARTRIDGE, Louisa M.	3	Fe	*	Michigan	Oct., 1849	*	measles	8
KEMP, Octavius L.	2	M	*	Michigan	Sept., 1849	*	dysentery	24
ALEXANDER, Sarah	1/12	Fe	*	Michigan	Oct., 1849	*	whooping cough	8
SANBURN, Daniel	45	M	M	NH	April, 1850	farmer	accident	*
SEACOR, Benjamin	60	M	W	New York	Sept., 1849	farmer	palsey	4
POWELL, Seth	8	M	*	Michigan	March, 1850	*	accident	*
BROWER, Julia A.	25	Fe	*	New York	Dec., 1849	*	palsey	90
CAMBURN, William A.	9	M	*	Michigan	May, 1850	*	brain fever	8

[358] Oak Grove Cemetery near Morenci Michigan Coomer Monument; also on the monument, Samantha G. Coomer/Aged 41 yrs/Sept. 30 1886. DBC searched the immediate area around the monument and found no other stones or markers.



[359] *Gravestone Records of Lenawee County, Michigan: Townships of Fairfield, Medina, Seneca, and the city of Morenci* (Volume 5) by Harriet Cole Bowen; pub DAR; 1943. At Lenawee District Library – Main Branch, Adrian MI

[360] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coverture

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