

“We’re Related to James Fenimore Cooper – Or So I’ve Been Told”

That’s what my maternal grandmother said to me, many years ago, when I was beginning my genealogy journey. My grandmother would have been a wonderful genealogist! She was accurate, she cited her sources, and she questioned everything. She went on to explain this statement. “I don’t know who first said this, and I have no idea where it came from. As far as I know, we don’t have any Coopers in the family.” When I asked my mother about this story, she simply said it was something she’d been told by “Grammie Helen.”

“Grammie Helen” was Helen Sarah (Lawrence) Staples, my grandmother’s paternal grandmother. My grandmother was a young woman when Helen died, but I doubt that she ever followed up on this story with her. If she had, I think she would have told me about it. I know she was very curious about this possible connection to a literary great.

I began my research with my mother’s side of the family, and it wasn’t long before I discovered that we did have a Cooper ancestor! Helen Sarah (Lawrence) Staples’ second marriage in 1886 identifies her as the daughter of Isaac and Anna C. (Powers) Lawrence.¹

The 1833 marriage record of Isaac Lawrence Jr. and Anna C. Powers in Orange, Vermont, was found,² and census records show that both were born in New Hampshire.³ That middle initial, C., was so intriguing, that I focused my search for a Cooper ancestor immediately on Anna C. Powers. Her death record added her parents names, James and Huldah (without surnames), the fact that she was born in Croydon, New Hampshire, and that her date of birth was circa May 1811.⁴

Moving my research to New Hampshire – literally, because this was in the pre-Internet days – I located the 1806 Croydon marriage of James Powers and Huldah – wait for it – **Cooper!**⁵ We had a Cooper ancestor! But here, my research skidded to a halt. Census and cemetery records showed that Huldah was born about 1788, but births were not recorded in Croydon during that time period. The *Croydon Centennial* did include this information.

Dea. John Cooper came to this town in 1770, and died in 1805. From him and his two nephews, Ezra Cooper and Samuel Cooper, have descended all those in this vicinity who bear the name of Cooper.⁶

A census study of these three men didn’t provide any additional clues. Huldah could have been the daughter of any one of them. Croydon’s original proprietors were from the Grafton, Massachusetts, area, and it’s likely that the Cooper men came from Massachusetts, as well; but in the pre-Internet days, finding them would take a lot of effort. Disappointed, I tabled my personal Cooper research and checked out James Fenimore Cooper’s ancestry, something that could be found in any encyclopedia.

James Fenimore Cooper, son of William and Elizabeth (Fenimore) Cooper, was born 15 September 1789 in Burlington, New Jersey. His father was born 2 December 1754 in Smithfield, Pennsylvania, the son of Quaker parents, James and Hannah (Hibbs) Cooper. The chance of a relationship between my New England Congregationalist Coopers and these Pennsylvania Quakers was growing smaller with each generation I discovered. James was the son of William and Mary (Groom) Cooper, and his father, William, was the son of James and Hester Cooper of Philadelphia.

This James was born in 1661 in Stratford-on-Avon, England, and he immigrated to America in 1679.⁷

I reported my findings to my grandmother, and told her that it was unlikely, but still possible, that a connection to James Fenimore Cooper might exist. She was delighted to discover that our ancestry *did* include a verified Cooper. As to the connection, she would be happy to see it proved – or disproved. After all, James Fenimore Cooper was not her favorite author (or mine). Then, in 1979, my grandmother died; and I had not found the answer.

The Cooper research gathered dust for 25 years. When I reopened it, I attacked the problem with more experience and fresh eyes. Tracing all the children of Huldah (Cooper) Powers, as well as all the Croydon Coopers, I discovered that her most likely parents were Samuel and Anna (--?--) Cooper – and there was a 1781 marriage record for Samuel Cooper and Anna Straight in Northbridge, Massachusetts – a town that borders Grafton.⁸

Samuel and Anna Cooper are buried in Croydon's East Village Cemetery. Samuel died in 1838, and among the legatees named in his estate was his daughter, Huldah, wife of James Powers of Orange, Vermont.⁹ I was one generation closer to proving – or disproving – the family story. Samuel's age at death gave a circa 5 July 1761 date of birth. Ezra Cooper's estate file confirmed that he and Samuel were brothers.¹⁰ Worcester County, Massachusetts, land records and Grafton, Massachusetts, vital records confirmed that the two were sons of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Axtell) Cooper, and they were indeed nephews of Croydon's Deacon John Cooper.¹¹

With Massachusetts land records, published vital records, and even some counties' estate files and some original town records online, finding my grandmother's Cooper origins would now be feasible. The successful search led, not to an American author, but to a house, the oldest surviving dwelling in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

THE SAMUEL COOPER HOUSE

The 3 December 1653 birth of the first Deacon Samuel Cooper, son of the immigrant John Cooper, is recorded in the town records of Cambridge, where he lived his entire life.¹² He married Hannah, daughter of Deacon Walter Hastings, on 4 December 1682.¹³ Whether his Cambridge home was completed in time to welcome his bride, or whether the two built it together, is not known. Dendrochronology has shown that the trees from which the house was built were felled in the winters of 1675/6 and 1680/1 and spring 1681, so it's likely that his marriage was the occasion for which this house was built.¹⁴ Samuel Cooper died 8 January 1718 in Cambridge. His widow, Hannah, died on 9 October 1732, and the couple is buried in Cambridge's Old Burying Ground.¹⁵ Together, they raised nine children in this house.

One seldom has the opportunity to learn of a 17th century ancestor's life from anything but documents and tombstones, but Samuel Cooper's house still stands. Located on the corner of Linnaean and Agassiz Streets, it's now owned and operated as a museum by Historic New England, and it is documented as Cambridge's oldest surviving home.¹⁶ The house was originally built as an "integral lean-to half house," but Samuel's son, Walter, added the western half of the present house, making it symmetrical. Combining photographs of the present house, the 1718 inventory of Samuel's estate, and various descriptions, we can visit Samuel Cooper and his family. Let's turn back the clock three centuries to Christmas Day in 1714.

The original house is about 24 x 28 feet in size, a single room and chimney bay wide, two rooms deep, and 2½ stories high.¹⁷ It faces south and stands on 11 acres of land that includes plowland, hay, and an apple orchard.¹⁸ The east side shows the typical saltbox form with its long, uniformly sloping rear roof. The entryway is on the left of the two-story front façade. The large chimney on the west wall is pilastered, suggesting that the family that occupies the home is prosperous. Samuel Cooper is one of Cambridge's selectmen and a deacon of the First Church.¹⁹ Although the ban on



“Gardens at the Cooper-Frost-Austin House,” John Phelan, CC-BY-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/deed.en>). The east half (shown) is the original portion of the house.

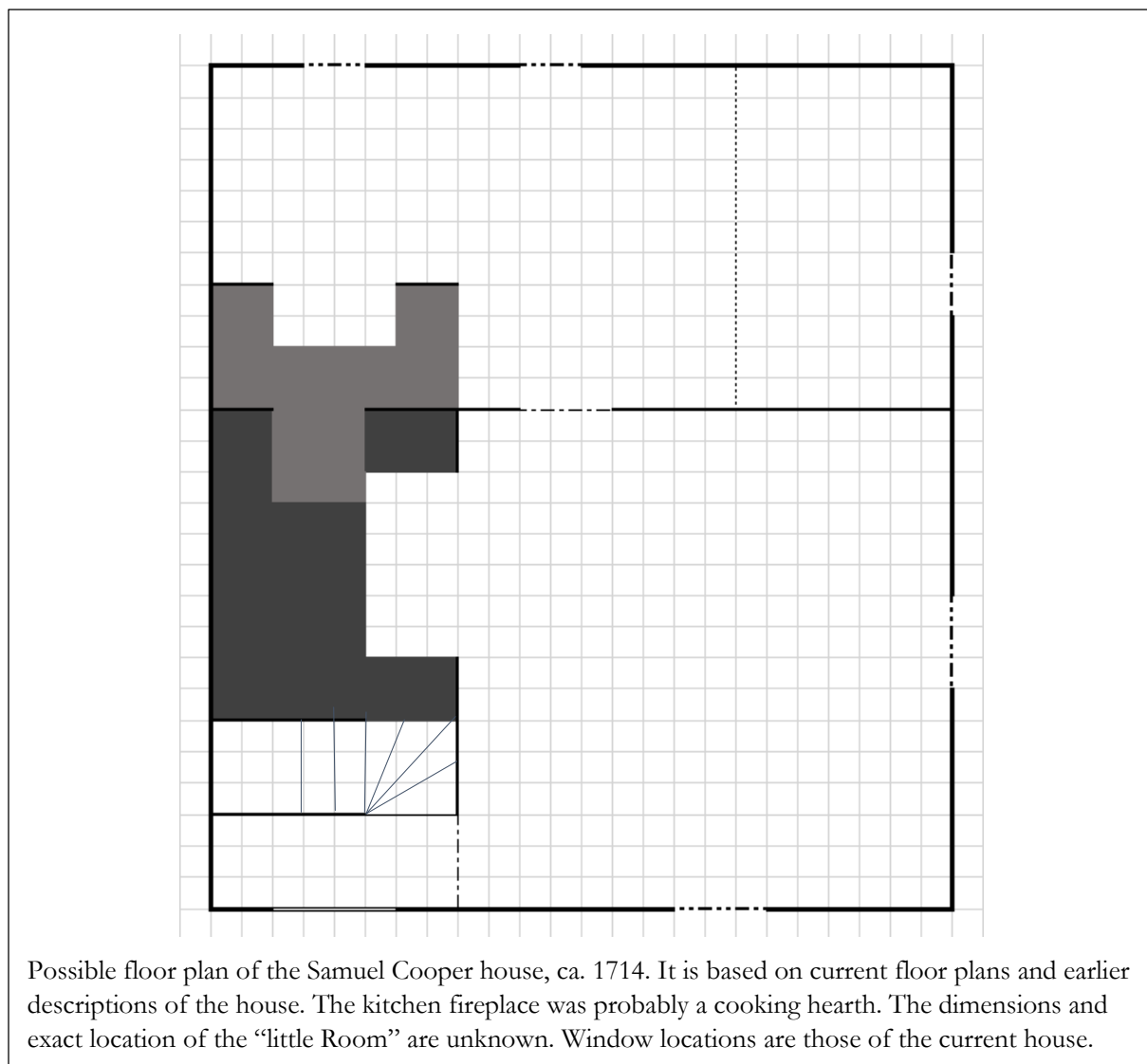
celebrating Christmas had been repealed in 1681, to most of the members of the First Church, Christmas was still just another day, so his house shows no sign of holiday celebrations.²⁰

On entering the house, the visitor sees a narrow stair leading to the second floor and the entry to the “Low Room” on the right. The focal point of this room is the massive fireplace taking up most of the west wall. The fire is lit, the room is pleasantly warm, and the smell of bread baking in the oven built into the back of the fireplace fills the air. This room is elegantly furnished with two tables, a chest, a dozen chairs, two large chairs and six cushions, and a “joynt stool.” The fireplace area holds two trammels, a pair of andirons, shovel and tongs, a grid iron and “trevet,” bellows, a pressing iron, box iron, and heaters. There are books, two pair “cumpasses,” a pair of “Nippers,” a looking glass, four hammers, four gimlets, nails, and an “Iron foot.” The chest probably contains the eleven pairs of sheets, six pillow “biers” [*cases*], six towels, four table cloths, and the “2 doz & 8 Napkins” noted in the inventory.²¹

The ground floor contains two more rooms. Running along the back of the house is a room divided into two parts. The largest area is the “Kitchin,” and the “little Room” is a small area at one end. The objects in the kitchen only add to the impression of prosperity. There is a large quantity of pewter ware, most of it called “best” pewter. a porridge pot with hooks and lid; an iron dish kettle, a pair of “Iron dogs” [*andirons*]; a brass kettle, candlestick, brass milk pans, and a brass mortar; an iron mortar and pestle, frying pan, spitt, and an iron candlestick; a chafing dish, three skillets, a frying pan, sieves, a flesh fork, spoons, tin ware, and wooden ware; a pair of scales and weights and a pair of stilyards; glass bottles and glasses; a kneading trough and chopping knife; a pair of sheep shears and a brand and burning iron.

The “little Room” is quite small and serves as a bedroom. It’s furnished with a featherbed and bolster, curtains, and a bedstead with “cord & Straw bed.”

In the nomenclature of the time, upper floor rooms were called “chambers,” and they were identified by the lower floor room’s name; e.g., the “Kitchin Chamber” was the room over the kitchen. The second floor is reached via the staircase at the front entry, which leads directly into the



“Chamber,” the room located above the “Low Room.”²² This is the main bedroom. It’s furnished with four beds: two feather beds with bolsters and pillows; a “Sute of Curtains” and two straw beds, one with a “bedsted & Cord,” and the second with a flock [*woolen remnants*] bolster. There are three coverlets, one of them new; two “green Ruggs” [*bed coverings, not floor coverings*], and two blankets. The room also holds 36 yards of woolen cloth and 2½ yards of “:Linsey Woolsey.” Three chests and a carved box complete the furnishings, and the room also contains a pair of curtain rods, warming pan and irons, and a fire shovel and tongs. Also evident is another looking glass.

One steps down to enter the “kitchin Chamber,” a feature allowing a little extra head room.²³ This room holds two bedsteads and cords, one of those a trundle bed. Both hold flock beds [*mattresses*] with bolsters, coverlets, and blankets. This room also serves as storage for a variety of tools, many with names unfamiliar to modern ears: carpenter’s tools, five axes, three hoes, a “betle” [*mallet*] with eight wedges, a mattock and two sickles, an “Iron Crow” [*crombar*], and three “Riddles” [*probably large coarse sieves*]. There was old iron, a ½-bushel and peck, a “dry casque” and other lumber, and two old saddles, a pillion and cloth, a “male pillion,” and five meal sacks.

The garret is reached by a very small stair running next to the chimney. It contains a small trundle bed, two spinning wheels, six leather chairs, 30 pounds of sheep’s wool, and a pair of andirons. Although the women of the house use this space most, it also contains a crosscut saw and three scythes with “tackling for two.”

Thirteen cider barrels, six washing and brushing tubs, a cheese press, and wooden bottle are stored in the cellar. Confirming the wealth suggested by the house, Samuel Cooper’s inventory included several valuable items, all listed separately: a silver cup, five spoons and “other Silver”, 100 ounces in silver money, and four gold rings. Perhaps small by modern standards, the home of Samuel and Hannah (Hastings) Cooper was more than ample for the needs of their eleven-member family.

Thirty-five years too late, I can now say unequivocally that my Congregationalist Cooper line is *not* related to James Fenimore Cooper’s Quaker ancestors. Huldah (Cooper) Powers descends from a long line of deacons and selectmen, but no authors. Her immigrant ancestor, Deacon John Cooper of Cambridge, Massachusetts, came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony long before James Fenimore Cooper’s immigrant ancestor was born.

Every family story seems to have a germ of truth buried in it. Sometimes, one finds that this tiny germ is the only bit of truth. That is true of my family’s Cooper legend. What one also finds is that, although the truth may not be stranger than the fiction, it is usually at least as interesting.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

This is an abbreviated summary, following only the direct line between John Cooper and his 5x-great-granddaughter, Helen Sarah Lawrence.

Generation One

1. John¹ Cooper was born circa 1617 in England.²⁴ He was baptized on 14 March 1618, Dedham, Essex Co., England, and is called the son of Simon Cooper.²⁵ He married **Anna Sparrowhawke** say 1641, (based on respective ages and birth of first child) at the First Congregational Church in Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts.²⁶ He died 22 August 1691 in Cambridge²⁷ and was buried there in the Old Burying Ground.²⁸

John Cooper's father, Simon, died when John was young, and his mother, Lydia, married the widower Gregory Stone, about 1627, possibly in Dedham. John and his sister Lydia came to New England with their mother and stepfather about 1635.²⁹

Children of **John¹ Cooper** and **Anna Sparrowhawke**, all born in Cambridge, were:

- 2 i. ANNAH² COOPER, b. 16 November 1643; d. 8 May 1666 in Cambridge; m. Edmund Pinson.
- 3 ii. MARY COOPER, b. 11 September 1645.
- 4 iii. JOHN COOPER, b. 2 April 1651; d. 26 August 1652 in Cambridge.
- + 5 iv. SAMUEL COOPER, b. 3 December 1653; d. 8 January 1717/18 in Cambridge; bur. Old Burying Ground, Cambridge; m. Hannah Hastings.
- 6 v. JOHN COOPER, b. 3 October 1656.
- 7 vi. NATHANIEL COOPER, b. 2 May 1659; d. 19 December 1661 in Cambridge.
- 8 vii. LIDEA COOPER, b. 8 April 1662.
- 9 viii. HANNAH COOPER, bap. 29 December 1667 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge.
- 10 ix. ANNA COOPER, b. 26 December 1668.

Generation Two

5. Samuel² Cooper (John¹) was born 3 December 1653 in Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts.³⁰ He died 8 January 1717/18 in Cambridge³¹ and was buried there in the Old Burying Ground.³² He married **Hannah Hastings** 4 December 1682 in Cambridge.³³

Children of **Samuel² Cooper** and **Hannah Hastings**, all born in Cambridge:

- 11 i. HANNAH³ COOPER, b. 23 December 1683; bap. as Anna Cooper, 17 January 1696/97 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge; d. 15 May 1767 Cambridge; m. Edmund Frost.
- 12 ii. LYDIA COOPER, b. 9 March 1684/85; bap. 17 January 1696/97 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge; d. 18 April 1740; m. Jonathan Gove
- 13 iii. SARAH COOPER, b. circa 1687; bap. 17 January 1696/97 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge; d. 21 February 1753 in Arlington [then (West) Cambridge], Middlesex Co., Massachusetts; m. Ephraim Frost.
- + 14 iv. SAMUEL COOPER, b. say 1690; bap. 17 January 1696/97 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge; d. 31 March 1748/49 Grafton, Worcester Co., Massachusetts; m. Sarah Kidder.
- 15 v. MARY COOPER, bap. 17 January 1696/97 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge; m. Nathanael Goddard.
- 16 vi. ELIZABETH COOPER, bap. 17 January 1696/97 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge; d. 5 March 1704 in Cambridge.
- 17 vii. WALTER COOPER, b. circa 1696; bap. 17 January 1696/97 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge; d. 27 September 1751 in Cambridge; m. Martha Goddard.
- 18 viii. JOHN COOPER, bap. 2 October 1698 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge; d. 13 March 1724 in Cambridge; m. Lydia Prentice.
- 19 ix. JONATHAN COOPER, b. 6 December 1707; m. Sarah Prentice.

Generation Three

14. Samuel³ Cooper (Samuel², John¹) was born say 1690. He is called Samuel Cooper's eldest son, so his birth must have preceded that of Walter in circa 1696, and this say date fits known births of other children best. He was baptized on 17 January 1696/97 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts.³⁴ He died 31 March 1748/49 in Grafton, Worcester Co., Massachusetts.³⁵ No age is given in the death record, nor has his burial place been found, so his exact date of birth is still undetermined. He married **Sarah Kidder** 29 March 1720 in Cambridge.³⁶

Children of **Samuel³ Cooper** and **Sarah Kidder** were as follows:

- + 20 i. NATHANIEL⁴ COOPER, b. 21 July 1720 Grafton, Middlesex [*now Worcester*] Co., Massachusetts; d. 3 March 1793 Croydon, Sullivan Co., New Hampshire; bur. Pinnacle Cemetery, Croydon; m. Elizabeth Axtell.
- 21 ii. SAMUEL COOPER, b. 14 October 1721 Grafton, Worcester Co., Massachusetts; m. Abigail Whipple.
- 22 iii. JOSEPH COOPER, bap. 20 October 1723 First Congregational Church, Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts; d. before 14 May 1735 in Cambridge.
- 23 iv. JOHN COOPER, b. 4 March 1725 Grafton; d. 10 August 1805 Croydon; bur. Pinnacle Cemetery, Croydon; m. Mary Sherman.
- 24 v. SARAH COOPER, b. 8 January 1729 Grafton.

Generation Four

20. Nathaniel⁴ Cooper (Samuel³, Samuel², John¹) was born 21 July 1720 in Grafton, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts.³⁷ He was baptized on 18 September 1720 in the First Congregational Church, Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts.³⁸ He died 3 March 1793 in Croydon, Sullivan Co., New Hampshire,³⁹ and was buried in the Pinnacle Cemetery there.⁴⁰ He married **Elizabeth Axtell** 22 April 1746 in Grafton.⁴¹

The births of Nathaniel Cooper and three of his four siblings are recorded in Grafton, Massachusetts, town records. At the time, Grafton was still called "Hassanamisco," the name given to the village by a tribe of the Nipmucs, a Native American nation. It's more likely, though, that he and his siblings were actually born in Cambridge, where all were baptized, and where his father was recorded as providing wood to the minister as late as November 1729.⁴²

Nathaniel moved his family from Grafton to neighboring Northbridge and settled there in 1763.⁴³ Late in life, he divided his land among his sons,⁴⁴ and after his wife's death joined Samuel and Ezra in Croydon, New Hampshire, where he died in 1793.⁴⁵

Children of **Nathaniel⁴ Cooper** and **Elizabeth Axtell** were as follows:

- 25 i. EZRA⁵ COOPER, b. 16 December 1746 Grafton, Worcester Co., Massachusetts; d. 6 March 1813 Croydon, Cheshire (now Sullivan) Co., New Hampshire; bur. Pinnacle Cemetery, Croydon; m. Ruth Winter; m. Dolly Pettingill.
- 26 ii. NATHANIEL COOPER, b. 4 July 1748 Grafton; m. Mary Aldrich.
- 27 iii. JOHN COOPER, b. 26 October 1750 Grafton; m. Lidia Winter.
- 28 iv. ELISABETH COOPER, b. 30 April 1753 Grafton; m. David Dunn.
- 29 v. HEPZIBAH COOPER, b. 10 April 1757 Grafton; m. Timothy Winter.

- + 30 vi. SAMUEL COOPER, b. circa 5 July 1761 Grafton; d. 20 December 1838 Croydon; bur. Croydon Cemetery, Croydon; m. Anna Straight.
- 31 vii. ANNA COOPER, b. 14 May 1766 Uxbridge, Worcester Co., Massachusetts; m. David Winter.

Generation Five

30. Samuel⁵ Cooper (Nathaniel⁴, Samuel³, Samuel², John¹) was born in Grafton, Worcester Co., Massachusetts, circa 5 July 1761 as calculated from age 77 years 5 months 15 days at death.⁴⁶ He was baptized on 12 July 1761 in Grafton.⁴⁷ He died 20 December 1838 in Croydon, Sullivan Co., New Hampshire⁴⁸ and was buried in Croydon Cemetery in Croydon, Sullivan Co., New Hampshire.⁴⁹ He is probably the Samuel Cooper who married **Anna Straight** 10 May 1781 in Northbridge, Worcester Co., Massachusetts. The name of daughter Sarah (Cooper) Paul's daughter, Anna Straite Paul, supports this hypothesis.⁵⁰

Children of **Samuel⁵ Cooper** and **Anna Straight**, all born in Croydon, were:

- 32 i. ANNA⁶ COOPER, b. 30 November 1782; d. 14 December 1815 Croydon, Sullivan Co., New Hampshire; bur. Putnam Cemetery, Croydon.
- 33 ii. MARY COOPER, b. circa 1783; d. 1830 Croydon; m. Elias Bemis.
- 34 iii. SARAH COOPER, b. 10 July 1787; d. 17 October 1876 Newport, Sullivan Co., New Hampshire; bur. East Village Cemetery, Croydon.
- + 35 iv. HULDAH COOPER, b. 1788; d. 18 October 1847 Orange, Orange Co., Vermont; bur. Orange Center Cemetery, Orange, Orange Co., Vermont; m. James Powers.
- 36 v. Son COOPER, b. between 1790 and 1794.
- 37 vi. Daughter COOPER, b. between 1794 and 1800.

Generation Six

35. Huldah⁶ Cooper (Samuel⁵, Nathaniel⁴, Samuel³, Samuel², John¹) was born 1788 in Croydon, Cheshire (now Sullivan) Co., New Hampshire.⁵¹ She died 18 October 1847 in Orange, Orange Co., Vermont, and was buried there in Orange Center Cemetery.⁵² She married **James Powers**, son of **Ezekiel Powers** and **Hannah Hall**, 28 August 1806 in Croydon.⁵³

Children of **Huldah⁶ Cooper** and **James Powers** were as follows:

- 38 i. CYNTHIA⁷ POWERS, b. 20 January 1809 Croydon, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire; d. 25 March 1837 Croydon; bur. East Village Cemetery, Croydon; m. Gardner W. Stewart.
- + 39 ii. ANNA COOPER POWERS, b. 22 April 1811 Croydon; d. 25 August 1884 Barre, Washington Co., Vermont; bur. Elmwood Cemetery, Barre; m. Isaac Lawrence.
- 40 iii. IRENE POWERS, b. 23 April 1813 Croydon; m. Asa Jenney.
- 41 iv. HULDAH POWERS, b. 15 September 1816 Croydon; d. 18 May 1828 Croydon; bur. East Village Cemetery, Croydon.
- 42 v. FATIMA POWERS, b. 17 February 1819 Croydon; d. 12 September 1882, Plainview, Wabasha Co., Minnesota; bur. Greenwood Cemetery, Plainview; m. Thomas J. Wadleigh.
- 43 vi. SARAH P. POWERS, b. 20 April 1821 in Vermont; d. 4 September 1899 Winona Co., Minnesota; bur. Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona; m. Gardner W. Stewart.
- 44 vii. LUCY GLEASON POWERS, b. 23 October 1824 Croydon; d. 6 July 1887 Barre; bur. Elmwood Cemetery, Barre; m. Perrin Bancroft.

- 45 viii. HANNAH H. POWERS, b. 1827 Croydon; d. 18 October 1850; bur. Elmwood Cemetery, Barre; m. Andrew J. Bancroft.

Generation Seven

39. Anna Cooper⁷ Powers (Huldah⁶ Cooper, Samuel⁵, Nathaniel⁴, Samuel³, Samuel², John¹) was born 22 April 1811 in Croydon, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire.⁵⁴ She died 25 August 1884 in Barre, Washington Co., Vermont,⁵⁵ and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Barre.⁵⁶ She married **Isaac Lawrence**, son of **Isaac Lawrence** and **Mary Beverstock**, 5 December 1833, in Orange, Orange Co., Vermont.⁵⁷

Children of **Anna Cooper⁷ Powers** and **Isaac Lawrence** all born Orange:

- 46 i. IRENE M.⁸ LAWRENCE, b. 7 October 1834; d. 11 August 1852.
- 47 ii. JAMES A. LAWRENCE, b. circa 5 October 1836; d. 16 July 1888; m. (1) Rosina A. Earl; m. (2) Mary E. Wales.
- 48 iii. MARSHALL B. LAWRENCE, b. circa September 1838; d. 25 June 1870; m. Mary P. Blanchard.
- 49 iv. HULDAH ANN LAWRENCE, b. 30 April 1841; d. 16 March 1911; m. Charles C. Varney.
- + 50 v. HELEN SARAH LAWRENCE, b. circa 20 September 1848; d. 1 July 1929; bur. 3 July 1929; m. (1) Guy Beckley Staples; m. (2) Samuel John Lynn.

Generation Eight

50. Helen Sarah⁸ Lawrence (Anna Cooper⁷ Powers, Huldah⁶ Cooper, Samuel⁵, Nathaniel⁴, Samuel³, Samuel², John¹) was born in Orange, Orange Co., Vermont, circa 20 September 1848 as calculated from age 80 years 9 months 11 days at death.⁵⁸ She died 1 July 1929 in St. Johnsbury, Caledonia Co., Vermont,⁵⁹ and was buried 3 July 1929 in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in St. Johnsbury.⁶⁰ She married (1) **Guy Beckley Staples**, son of **Marshall S. Staples** and **Lucy Abbott**, 11 May 1869 in Barre, Washington Co., Vermont.⁶¹ She married (2) **Samuel John Lynn** 17 November 1886 in St. Johnsbury.⁶² She and Samuel Lynn had no children.

Children of **Helen Sarah⁸ Lawrence** and **Guy Beckley Staples** were as follows:

- 51 i. MAUD EUNICE⁹ STAPLES, b. 25 July 1870 Barre; d. 25 July 1870 Barre.
- 52 ii. HARLAN GUY STAPLES, b. 25 August 1871 Barre; d. 29 March 1898 St. Johnsbury; bur. Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, St. Johnsbury.
- 53 iii. BERTON ISAAC STAPLES, b. 15 June 1873 Barre; d. 9 October 1938 Gallup, McKinley Co., New Mexico; bur. 16 October 1938 Grove Cemetery, East St. Johnsbury, Caledonia Co., Vermont; m. Rebecca Bullard.
- 54 iv. MARCIA IRENA STAPLES, b. 20 September 1875 Wheelock, Caledonia Co., Vermont; d. 1 February 1896 St. Johnsbury; bur. 4 February 1896 Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, St. Johnsbury.
- 55 v. DON AURA STAPLES, b. 8 August 1878 North Danville, Caledonia Co., Vermont; d. 15 November 1949 East St. Johnsbury; bur. Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, St. Johnsbury; m. Lula Emma Peck.

ENDNOTES

¹ Samuel J. Lynn - Helen S. Staples, marriage application and certificate no. 57 (1886), Helen S. Staples, widow's pension certificate no. 189,493; Pearl D. Blodgett (guardian), minor's pension certificate no. no. 236,935; service of Guy B. Staples (3rd Ind. Batty., Vt. Lt. Art., Civil War), pension certificate no. 172,588; Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents ..., 1861--1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

² Vermont Vital Records, Card File Index to 1870, Isaac Lawrence - Anna C. Powers marriage (1833); Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, Montpelier.

³ 1860 U.S. census, Washington County, Vermont, population schedule, Barre, p. 20 (penned), p. 670 (stamped), dw. 190, fa. 194, Isaac Lawrence household; digital image, *HeritageQuest Online* (access through participating libraries); citing National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll 1324; also 1870 U.S. census, Washington County, Vermont, population schedule, Barre, p. 37 (penned), p. 19 (stamped), dw. 314, fa. 345, Isaac Lawrence household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://ancestry.com/>); citing National Archives microfilm publication M593, roll 1626. The 1850 census household lists Vermont as the place of birth for all members of the household.

⁴ Vermont Vital Records, Card File Index, 1870-1908, Anna Lawrence death (1884).

⁵ New Hampshire Vital Records, 1640-- , card file, James Powers – Huldah Cooper marriage (1806); New Hampshire Division of Vital Records Administration, Genealogical Research Center, Concord.

⁶ Edmund Wheeler, *Croydon, N.H., 1866. Proceedings at the Centennial Celebration, on Wednesday, June 13, 1866* (Claremont, N.H.: Claremont Manufacturing Co., 1867), 84.

⁷ "James Fenimore Cooper" entry, *Wikipedia* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Fenimore_Cooper : accessed 9 November 2014); also links to various ancestors' information.

⁸ Thomas W. Baldwin, compiler, *Vital Records of Northbridge, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1916), 117, Samuel Cooper - Anna Straight marriage (1781); database and images, "Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850," (<http://www.newenglandancestors.org>).

⁹ Sullivan County, New Hampshire, Estate files, Samuel Cooper probate file (183), no. 343-A, will, 28 January 1835; Sullivan County Probate Court, Newport.

¹⁰ Cheshire County, New Hampshire, Cheshire County Probate Court, Probate Estate Files, administration file no. C225 (images 967-1017), Ezra Cooper estate (1813); New Hampshire State Archives, Concord; digital images, "New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769-1936," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/> : accessed 24 January 2013); browse: Cheshire > Case no C169-230; imaged from FHL microfilm 2260126.

¹¹ Systematic History Fund, *Vital Records of Grafton, Massachusetts to the end of the year 1849* (Worcester, Massachusetts: Franklin P. Rice, 1906), 37, various Cooper births and baptisms; database and digital images, New England Historic Genealogical Society, *American Ancestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org/> : accessed 10 November 2014). Also see Middlesex and Worcester County Cooper land transactions.

¹² Thomas W. Baldwin, compiler, *Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts to the year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, Mass.: [Wright & Potter Printing Co.], 1914-1915), Samuel Cooper birth (1653), 1: 161; database and digital images, New England Historic Genealogical Society, *American Ancestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org/> : accessed 12 November 2014).

¹³ *Ibid.*, Saml. Cooper - Hannah Hastings marriage (1683), 2: 91.

¹⁴ "Cooper-Frost-Austin House," *Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory* (<http://www.dendrochronology.net/ma.asp> : accessed 8 November 2014).

¹⁵ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com/> : accessed 9 November 2014), Deacon Samuel Cooper (1653-1718) gravestone photograph, memorial no. 49543120, Old Burying Ground, Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts; also, Hannah Cooper (1666-1732) gravestone photograph, memorial no. 39495066; both photographs © Bill Boyington, 2010.

¹⁶ "Cooper-Frost-Austin House," *Historic New England* (<http://www.historicnewengland.org/historic-properties/homes/cooper-frost-austin-house> : accessed 9 November 2014).

¹⁷ Abbott Lowell Cummings, "Three Hearths: A Socioarchitectural Study of Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts Bay Probate Inventories," *Old-Time New England* (1997) 75: 24; digital images, *Historic New England* (<http://www.historicnewengland.org/preservation/your-older-or-historic-home/articles/pdf76.pdf> : accessed 9 November 2014). Measurements and floor plan were approximated from the drawing and descriptions in this article.

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- ¹⁸ Middlesex County, Massachusetts, probate case files, Samuel Cooper (1718) estate no. 5172, inventory, 4 March 1717/18; Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives, Boston; digital images, "Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871," New England Historic Genealogical Society, *AmericanAncestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org/> : accessed 5 November 2014). The inventory does not specify "apple" orchard, but the thirteen cider barrels in the cellar suggest that the orchard produced apples.
- ¹⁹ "Built in 1657," *The Cambridge Tribune*, 12 October 1912, p. 9, col. 1; digital image, *Cambridge Public Library* (<http://cambridge.dlconsulting.com/cgi-bin/cambridge?a=d&d=Tribune19121012-01.2.93#> : accessed 6 December 2014). "Samuel Cooper was deacon of the First Church, 1705-18, and selectman, 1704-16."
- ²⁰ Rebecca Beatrice Brooks, "When Christmas Was Banned in Boston," *History of Massachusetts*, 5 December 2011 (<http://historyofmassachusetts.org/when-christmas-was-banned-in-boston/> : accessed 1 December 2014).
- ²¹ Middlesex Co., Mass., probate case files, Samuel Cooper (1718) estate no. 5172, inventory, 4 March 1717/18. All contents details are taken from this inventory.
- ²² Later floor plans show two additional staircases from the kitchen, one leading down to the cellar and the other to the second floor. It's not known if those stairways were part of the original house.
- ²³ Hannah Winthrop Chapter, N.S.D.A.R., compilers, *An Historic Guide to Cambridge* (Cambridge, Mass.: Hannah Winthrop Chapter, N.S.D.A.R., 1907), 150; *GoogleBooks* (<http://books.google.com/books?id=YBMPAAAAAYAAJ> : accessed 15 November 2014).
- ²⁴ Baldwin, *Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts to the year 1850*, John Cooper death (1691), 2: 514; "in his 74th y."
- ²⁵ William S. Appleton, "The Family of Nathaniel Sparhawk of Cambridge," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 19 (April 1865): 125-127; digital images, New England Historic Genealogical Society, *AmericanAncestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org/> : accessed 8 December 2014); William S. Appleton, "Sparhawk -- Rogers -- Stoughton -- Cooper," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 21 (April 1867): 172-173; digital images, New England Historic Genealogical Society, *AmericanAncestors* (<http://www.americanancestors.org/> : accessed 8 December 2014).
- ²⁶ Baldwin, *Cambridge, Mass., Vital Records to 1850*, births of children to John and Anna Cooper, 1: 160.
- ²⁷ Baldwin, *Cambridge, Mass., Vital Records to 1850*, John Cooper death (1691), 2: 514; Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, Deacon John Cooper (1617-1691), gravestone photograph, memorial no. 59217887, Old Burying Ground, Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Mass., photograph © Bill Boyington, 2010.
- ²⁸ Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, Deacon John Cooper (1617-1691); Ralph L. Tucker, "The Lamson Family Gravestone Carvers of Charlestown and Malden, Massachusetts," *Markers: Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies* X (1993): 151-217; digital images, (<https://archive.org/details/markers10asso> : accessed 9 November 2014).
- ²⁹ Stephen P. Sharples, M.D., copyist, "Early Records of the First Church in Cambridge, Mass.," *The Genealogical Quarterly Magazine* 4 (April 1903-January 1904): 50, citing p. 7 of original manuscript; digital images, (<http://books.google.com/books?id=4aE-AAAAAYAAJ> : accessed 6 December 2014); also J. Gardner Bartlett, *Gregory Stone Genealogy: Ancestry and Descendants of Dea. Gregory Ston of Cambridge, Mass., 1320-1917* (Boston: Stone Family Association, 1918), 65; digital images, (<https://books.google.com/books?id=ZxsVAAAAAYAAJ> : accessed 6 December 2014).
- ³⁰ Baldwin, *Cambridge, Mass., Vital Records to 1850*, Samuel Cooper birth (1653), 1: 161.
- ³¹ Baldwin, *Cambridge, Mass., Vital Records to 1850*, Deacon Samuel Cooper death (1717/8), 2: 514.
- ³² Find A Grave, Inc., *Find A Grave*, Deacon Samuel Cooper (1653-1718) gravestone photograph, memorial no. 49543120, Old Burying Ground, Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Mass., photograph © Bill Boyington, 2010.
- ³³ Baldwin, *Cambridge, Mass., Vital Records to 1850*, Saml. Cooper - Hannah Hastings marriage (1683), 2: 91.
- ³⁴ Stephen P. Sharples, M.D., , copyist, "Early Records of the First Church in Cambridge, Mass.," *The Genealogical Quarterly Magazine* 4 (April 1903-January 1904): 123, citing p. 8 of "The Church Record ... commenced by The Reverend William Brattle," called "Infants and Others in their Minority Baptized by W^m Brattle."
- ³⁵ Grafton, Massachusetts, Town Records; Town Clerk, Grafton, Deacon Samuel Cooper death (1748/9), 261 (image 131); digital images, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 16 November 2014). This appears to be the earliest iteration of these records. Although settled before 1735, Grafton wasn't incorporated until this date. Early family vital records are entered as family groups.

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- ³⁶ Baldwin, *Cambridge, Mass., Vital Records to 1850*; Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Record books of the registry of deeds, 1639-1900, various entries; Registry of Deeds (Southern District), Cambridge; digital images, "Massachusetts, Land Records, 1620-1986," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/> : accessed November 2014); browse: Middlesex > Record Type, Year Range, and Volume; imaged from FHL microfilm 1781 rolls.
- ³⁷ Grafton, Mass., Town Records, Nathanael Cooper birth (1720), 1: 225.
- ³⁸ Sharples, M.D., "Early Records of the First Church in Cambridge, Mass.," *The Genealogical Quarterly Magazine* 4 (April 1903-January 1904): 240.
- ³⁹ New Hampshire, Department of Health, Vital Records; Dean Crawford Smith and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *Vital Records of Croydon, New Hampshire to the End of the Year 1900* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999).
- ⁴⁰ Smith and Sanborn, *Croydon Vital Records*, Mr. Nathaniel Cooper burial, p. 399.
- ⁴¹ Systematic History Fund, *Vital Records of Grafton, Massachusetts to the end of the year 1849*, Nathaniel Cooper - Elizabeth Axtell marriage (1746), 188.
- ⁴² Stephen Paschall Sharples, editor, *Records of the Church of Christ at Cambridge in New England, 1632-1830* (Boston: Eben Putnam, 1906), 188; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/recordsofchurcho00firs> : accessed 10 December 2014).
- ⁴³ D. Hamilton Hurd, compiler, *History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men*, 3 vols. (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1889), 1: 427; digital images, *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/historyofworcest01hurdd> : accessed 22 November 2014).
- ⁴⁴ Worcester County, Massachusetts, Deeds, 1722-1866, 123: 378 (image 551), Nathaniel Cooper to John Cooper (1789); Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Worcester; digital images, "Massachusetts, Land Records, 1620-1986," *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/> : accessed [CD3]); browse: Worcester > Record Type, Year Range, and Volume; imaged from FHL microfilm, 416 rolls; also, 119: 122 (image 415), Nathaniel Cooper to Nathaniel Cooper (1789); also 95: 407 (image 814), Nathaniel Cooper to Samuel Cooper (1783), etc.
- ⁴⁵ Dean Crawford Smith and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *Vital Records of Croydon, New Hampshire to the End of the Year 1900* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999), 399, Mr. Nathaniel Cooper burial.
- ⁴⁶ East Village Cemetery (Croydon, Sullivan County, New Hampshire), Samuel Cooper tombstone; transcribed and photographed by Susan Goss Johnston, 10 August 1985.
- ⁴⁷ Systematic History Fund, *Grafton, Mass., Vital Records to 1850*, Samuel Cooper baptism (1761), 37.
- ⁴⁸ N.H. Vital Records; East Village Cemetery (Croydon, N.H.); Smith and Sanborn, *Croydon Vital Records*.
- ⁴⁹ East Village Cemetery (Croydon, N.H.); Smith and Sanborn, *Croydon Vital Records*.
- ⁵⁰ East Village Cemetery (Croydon, N.H.), Anna Cooper tombstone; Smith and Sanborn, *Croydon Vital Records*, 141, Anna, wife of Samuel Cooper death entry (1832); Baldwin, *Vital Records of Northbridge, Massachusetts to the Year 1850*, 117.
- ⁵¹ Vermont Vital Records, Card File Index to 1870, Huldah Powers burial card (1847).
- ⁵² *Ibid.*; also Orange Center Cemetery (Orange, Orange County, Vermont), ; photographed by Susan Goss Johnston, 16 June 2013.
- ⁵³ N.H. Vital Records, James Powers - Huldah Cooper marriage card (1806); Franklin E. Powers, compiler, *A Genealogical Record of the Power(s) Families* (Aurora, Colorado: Powers, 1974), family 112127 (James Powers and Huldah Cooper).
- ⁵⁴ Vermont Vital Records, Card File Index, 1870-1908, Anna Lawrence death card (1884), gives age 73 years 3 months at death; also Smith and Sanborn, *Croydon Vital Records* 20.
- ⁵⁵ Vermont Vital Records, Huldah Powers burial card (1847); also Orange Center Cemetery (Orange, Orange County, Vermont), [Hul]dah C. Powers grave marker; photographed by Susan Goss Johnston, 16 June 2013; stone is almost completely buried.
- ⁵⁶ Elmwood Cemetery (Barre, Washington County, Vermont), Anna C. Lawrence tombstone; photographed by Susan Goss Johnston, 16 June 2012.
- ⁵⁷ Vermont Vital Records, Isaac Lawrence - Anna C. Powers marriage (1833); Sullivan County, New Hampshire, Estate Files, Isaac Lawrence, Anna C. Lawrence receipt, Samuel Cooper probate file (1839), no. 343-A, Orange, Vermont, 7 April 1848, Sullivan County Probate Court, Newport, New Hampshire.

⁵⁸ Samuel J. Lynn - Helen S. Staples, marriage application and certificate (1886), no. 57, 15 November 1886, Helen S. Staples, widow's pension no. 189,493; minor's pension no. 236,935, Civil War, RG 15, NA--Washington, age 38; also Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, Vermont), burial records, Helen S. Lynn burial information, lot 921.

⁵⁹ Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (St. Johnsbury, Vt.), burial records, Helen S. Lynn; Vermont Vital Records, Card File Index, 1908-1954, Helen Lynn death record (1929); "Death of Mrs. Staples," *The Caledonian Record*, 2 July 1929, p. 3, col. 1.

⁶⁰ Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (St. Johnsbury, Vt.), burial records, Helen S. Lynn; Vermont Vital Records, Card File Index, 1908-1954, Helen Lynn death record (1929); "Death of Mrs. Staples," *The Caledonian Record*, 2 July 1929, p. 3, col. 1.

⁶¹ Vermont, General index to vital records, to 1870, Guy B. Staples - Helen S. Lawrence, marriage (1869); FHL microfilm 027,696; Helen S. Staples, widow's pension no. 189,493; minor's pension no. 236,935, Civil War, RG 15, NA--Washington; *The Caledonian Record*, 2 July 1929, p. 3, col. 1.

⁶² Clark Holden, Barre Town Clerk, affidavit, 25 January 1880; Helen S. Staples, widow's pension no. 189,493; minor's pension no. 236,935, Civil War, RG 15, NA--Washington; Peck - Staples - Prescott families, "Family Memorabilia from Marcia Staples Parker Grant," Memorabilia, 1990; privately held by Peggy (Mrs. William L.) Tash, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE], Biloxi, Mississippi.