

## A Story of Pioneering

An Explanation - by Frank E. Cooley, Jr.

As can be seen by the following pages, Mrs. Hamil completed her manuscript in 1933, but she passed away before it could be put in print. My first connection with Cooley family history and genealogy in general was in 1936. During the summer I had had one or two letters from Dean Mortimer Elwyn Cooley of Ann Arbor, Michigan, so when he called the meeting for August 15th, 1936, in Springfield, Massachusetts, which resulted in the organization of The Cooley Family Association of America, I was eager to be there. I had not yet heard of Mrs. Hamil or her book. Dean Cooley had hired Miss Vivian Bulloch, later to become Mrs. John W. Keatley, to assemble the material which he had accumulated over sixty years, which eventually became The Cooley Genealogy, dealing primarily with the descendants of Benjamin Cooley of Longmeadow, Massachusetts. In the mean-time, Mrs. Hamil's manuscript had dropped from sight.

It was about the year 1950 that I received a letter from Miss Louise McIntyre, of Newman, Illinois, asking if I had any knowledge of the whereabouts of Mrs. Hamil's manuscript. I wrote Miss McIntyre that I had no knowledge whatever of it. The next thing I heard was that Miss McIntyre and others had found Mrs. Hamil's manuscript on the top shelf in a closet of a house which was about to be torn down, and that they were planning to publish it. They did and I obtained a copy for eight dollars.

I was much disappointed with the book. As I opened it for the first time, the back cover broke away from the pages. It was more of a narrative than it was a genealogy. The numbering system was cumbersome - some individuals had numbers of twelve to fifteen digits, which made the book very difficult to work with, and to trace lines of descent and ascent. Finally, the book had no index. There is a tremendous amount of information in the book - it would take years to accumulate it again - but it is difficult to "find" any desired information in the book.

I conceived the idea of typing the book, and using a more simple system of numbering, but retaining the original numbers. I did not do any re-arranging of the material. My goal was to make it possible to "find" information in the book. And after typing it I prepared a name index.

During the process of typing it became very apparent that there were numerous errors in the book, which should have been corrected in the proof-reading. And there were other errors. An "Errata" is included in the typed copy but it is by no means complete.

In preparing the index - from the typed copy - it was obvious that there are errors in typing, but since there is just the one typed copy and the printed copy is available for comparison, no effort has been made to proof-read and correct the typed copy. A copy of the index has been sent to Mrs. Dewey G. Force, Genealogist

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of the Cooley Family Association of America, for her use as genealogist.

The typed copy is for my own use. It will not be sold. When I shall have no further need of it, it will become the property of the Cooley Family Association.

It is exceedingly important to discover the present location of Mrs. Hamil's original papers, for it is certain that there is information in them which does not appear in the book, and which would be most helpful to any person delving further into this group of those who have the Cooley name or blood.

In closing, this book of Mrs. Hamil's should never be used as an authority for the information in it. It should be used ONLY as a guide, and all data checked with source material or elsewhere before being accepted.

December 27, 1968.

*Frank E. Cooley, Jr.*