

Some Comments About
THE STORY OF PIONEERING

by

Mrs. Lura Coolley Hamil

Comments made by

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1. There are many errors in the book - errors which should never have been allowed. For example -
 - a. The numbering system is very difficult to follow, but when arbitrary changes are made in it, it becomes hopeless. For example -
 1. A man might have the number 112112656. By his second wife he had, say, three children, whose numbers might have been - 1121126566
1121126567
1121126568If, by chance, nothing was known about the second of the three children, he was dropped and the third was carried forward with the number of the second child.

(NOTE: this would make it hard enough to carry the line forward, but it would be almost impossible to trace the line backward. And in a good numbering system it is just as important to be able to carry the line backward as it is to carry it forward.)
- b. The spelling of the/^{family}name is arbitrarily changed in carrying the individual from his father's family to his own family.

c. It is quite apparent that the printers' work has not been proof-read, from the number of errors in the book. So I say: don't trust any information in this book, unless it can be verified elsewhere.

- 1-a. To me, Dutch genealogy has always been very difficult, due to the spelling of the first names. Not until they came to America did they take family names. And it is felt that it was the influence of their English neighbors that caused the Dutch women to "push" for family names.

Also the Dutch language did not encourage logical consistency in following family lineages, as among the English. For example, see the following line of descent of John Cooley of Hunterdon, County, New Jersey, (see page 136), due very probably to the Dutch pronunciation and the desire of individuals to use different family names -

- I. Lambert Cool
- II. Cornelius Lambertson Cool
- III. Peter Colet
- IV. ~~William~~ William Collard
- V. Robert Coles
- VI. John Cooley
- VII. John Cooley

2. It was because of the many errors in the book, and because of the difficult numbering system, that I spent the time to type the book, at the same time changing the numbering system to follow the system used in the Dean's "The Cooley Genealogy". In the typed book, the number (used in the printed book) was put after the name of the individual.
3. The binding of Mrs. Hamil's book was very poor. Shortly after I obtained my copy, the binding began to disintegrate, which was another reason that I typed the book.
4. The size of the type used in printing the book was very small, which was another ~~book~~ reason that I typed the book - I wanted it in bigger type, and I used a pica-type typewriter.
5. When the book first came out, LaVerne Cooley declared his intention to check the information in it with sources which were available to him in the Grosvenor Library in Buffalo, N.Y. But Buffalo was thirty miles from Batavia where LaVerne lived, and it may not have been possible for him to travel that distance very often. Also the Grosvenor Library might not have had the source material that LaVerne hoped for. And LaVerne was not in good health - all of which may have kept him from doing what he wanted

to do. At any rate, I never heard anything about any results of such an effort. LaVerne was third president, and later Genealogist, of the Cooley Family Association, and a very devoted and enthusiastic member

6. This, I think, is the most important in Mrs. Hamil's book. #557 (of the typed copy) is John Cooley who married Abigail Lippincott. This same John Cooley is on page 910 of the Dean's "The Cooley Genealogy".

Now, Miss Sara Cooley, of Trenton, New Jersey, one-time Vice-president of the Cooley Family Association, was a very fine and very capable woman. She was a descendant of #557 John Cooley. (See The Cooley Genealogy, p.917). After she retired from her position with the State of New Jersey, she spent much time and energy in attempting to discover the ancestors of this #557 John Cooley. But so far as I know she was unsuccessful. Somewhere in Mrs. Hamil's book (see page 137, but I think elsewhere) the statement is made that this John Cooley's grand-father, Robert Cooley, was one of the beneficiaries of a quit-claim deed which is said to be on file in the Court House in White Plains, New York. It seems that Susannah Collard widow of William Collard #17 inherited considerable real estate from her husband. After she married (2) Thomas Hunt, she signed a quit-claim deed to the real estate of her husband, William Collard, making his children and grand-children beneficiaries. And John Cooley #56, son of Robert Coles (son of William Collard), was the father of John Cooley who married Abigail Lippincott. And this quit-claim deed in White Plains Court House is the only record which proves this connection. I have never checked the White Plains, N.Y., Court House, but if this be true, then this item makes Mrs. Hamil's book worthwhile. In the Dean's book, Elmer Ellsworth Cooley of New York City is given as a descendant of John Cooley and Abigail Lippincott. And Elmer Ellsworth Cooley certainly was a Dutchman. I knew him well - too well!

7. See the Quarterly Bulletin (I don't know which one) where Miss Sara Cooley of Trenton, N.J., tied some other Cooleys into the descendants of John Cooley and Abigail Lippincott.
8. You see, Mrs. Hamil died January 9, 1933, before she could have her manuscript published. Perhaps twenty years later three or four of her relatives (cousins?) got together and decided that they would publish Mrs. Hamil's manuscript. But they couldn't find the manuscript. One of them - Miss Louise Mc Intyre, of Newman, Illinois, one-time member of the Association - wrote and asked me if I knew where it was. But 1933 was before my rise to prominence in Cooley genealogy circles, and I knew nothing of Mrs.

Hamil and could be of no help. But they eventually found the manuscript - on the shelf of a closet in a house which was just about to be torn down.

- 9. Mrs. Hamil's book is not carefully prepared. Nor is it a genealogy, although there is genealogy in it. It is written as a narrative.
- 10. I have hoped for some time that some descendant of John Cooley or of his ancestors would attempt to revamp the book and prepare one that would be more trustworthy. It would take some-one who had the time, money, interest and ability, and such a person might be hard to locate.
- 11. In typing the book, the typed pages are numbered the same as the printed pages. If a second page of typing was needed, an "a" was added to the page number. For example, in the typed copy, page 73 and page 73a would carry the information found on page 73 in the printed book.
- 12. See FOREWORD on page v. Mrs. Hamil makes the astonishing statement that "Research was begun June 25; writing of the narrative (was begun) August 25; and completion of the copying Dec. 21, 1931." The inference is that the book was prepared in less than six months. She then lists 19 references and adds "others". Well, it would have taken me six months just to study part of the references!!
- 13. On page 80, William Cooley #115 is said to have gone with Daniel Boone and others "into Kentucky". But I don't think that Mrs. Hamil could substantiate that this William Cooley (Daniel Boone's companion) was descended from #1 Lambert Cool. (see page 69)

Variations of the Family Name

COOLEY

Coele	Coley	Coolleigh	Cully
Coely	Collard	Cooly	Culley
Cole	Coolley	Corlear	Cuyler
Coles	Collett	Corler	Van Corlear
Colet	Collet	Cowley	Van Curler

14. Page 144. It says: John Cooley married (1) in Maryland, Sarah Belchert, who died before 1799; he reached Missouri in 1780; and married Rachel McHenry in Kentucky in 1799; In other words he came from Missouri in 1799 to marry his 2nd wife in Ky. (Wonder what pullman he come on!)