

Liberty, Mo.

July 20-1937

Dear Mr. Tallant

Rec'd your last letter yesterday and while I've been waiting to make an interesting "find" before writing you, I feel that I must write at once in appreciation of the information sent me. I certainly do appreciate the list sent and some of the names are family names in my more immediate ancestors which makes me feel like they must be my own folks. I do thank you so much and only hope I shall be able to help you as much.

I get so enthusiastic when I get working on family ancestry I only wish I could spend more time at it. Now, while I haven't done anything yet about the Clay Co. Cooleys, I have this in mind: to spend some day soon (a cooler one than we've had the past weeks) in the probate office in Liberty and find out whether Joseph Cooley died in this county, if he left a will and the names by his heirs mentioned in said will. Thorpe's history states he was living here as early as 1826. So, so it isn't



likely he was married here. However, I might find marriage records of his children. Mr. Thorpe also states that "Weline Cooley married James Offices. I expect she was a daughter. He also mentions a famous Dr. Cooley of Kansas City practicing at the time he wrote his account of Early pioneers (1880).

Did you know we have a lake in Clay Co. named for your family - Cooley Lake between a small river landing called Missouri City (still a small city) and the eastern boundary line of the County? This lake was named for Joseph Cooley and I'm guessing he must have lived near it. However, all old trails entering the Co. from Howard and Boone Counties from which many early immigrants came, led by the old lake. My maternal grandfather lived near its banks some 40 years and I've passed many happy times upon or near it. For a long time it was leased to a club of Kansas City hunters and sportsmen who built club houses and used it as a rendezvous for week end parties.



A few years ago, game playing out etc,  
it was drained and tilled and made  
into most wonderful farm land. And  
so really, Cooley's Lake is a remembrance  
more than anything else, but I that  
you might be interested in knowing  
about it.

As to Thorpe's history - I'm going to  
try to get a copy for you to keep as  
your own. It was published and given  
by our county paper as a compliment to  
subscribers and unless the supply has  
given out, I'll be able to send you one.  
If not I'll send you mine to read. I've  
told you all that is mentioned of the  
Cooleys but there are names of so  
many pioneer folks - nearly  $\frac{2}{3}$  of them  
I know descendants of and some  
six or eight I am descended from  
myself so its very interesting to me.  
While you won't recognize so many  
names of course I thought perhaps  
in your research you might refer to  
in and connect with some names.  
Anyway its an interesting little  
book to own in that it was the  
inspiration that caused Emerson



though to write "The Covered Wagon" -  
and the Banions and Wingates are  
all there, they bring real Clay Co. folks.  
Now another blue Jewish to follow  
for you is to look up the Cooleys still  
here in this County. Mr. Chas. Bingham  
a real estate man at North Kansas City  
married a Cooley and a family (her  
father) lives near North Town. If it means  
anything to you to know that the Cooleys  
are prosperous folks here, I'm informed  
they are very much so - one especially  
being very wealthy. I think we liked  
to know our relations get on in the  
world rather than find some "nervous  
wells" among them. Now I plan to  
arm myself with your letters some  
day and call on either Mr. Bingham  
or her father and I hope to have some  
real news to write you as a  
result.

I'm sorry I haven't  
something to send now, but I'm very  
busy and this sort of work does  
take time and patience. There is  
also a book on White genealogy in  
the Kansas City Library which I hope  
(over)



to see soon and get some line  
on our White-Cowley folks.

Thanks again for the Rev.  
soldier list - I've never had such a  
list and am very glad to have it.

Most Sincerely

Ethel White-Cowley

Liberty

Mo

Route 2,

Did your husband have any  
relatives? My father had a first  
cousin who married a Tallant.  
They now live in Colo.

Henry Woods Tallant - Sara Tunnell

Reg. Heber "

Wm. Nicholas " Col. O.

Alex. Q. " "

Robert C. " died early.

Ans. Aug 4<sup>th</sup> B2