

Could the Martin Cooley mentioned below be connected with the family of Martin Cooley named in the attached letter? I think one Martin Cooley was a son of Benj. Cooley & Miss Dickie who lived in Grayson Co. Va.

353 S. Mill Street
Lexington, Kentucky
March 6th, 1935.

Mrs. Edward C. Tallant
911 Chapala St.
Santa Barbara, Calif.

My dear Mrs. Tallant:-

You have every reason to think that I was not going to reply to your letter written to me so many many weeks ago. I have had the Flu, my husband had it, then his sister died, then an Aunt of mine---- all very near to us. In the meantime I had no opportunity to go to Nicholasville until last night.

Our friend Cooley we see almost daily but it was his parents I wished to consult, so last night we went down home with him and I made another effort to find out anything of interest--- and did not get much, if any more than I had written you last year.

Mr Martin Cooley, Sr. at Nicholasville took the names and dates of the first Wm. Cooley and Reuben Cooley and Elizabeth Martin and said he was going to look through more wills and deeds and see what all he could find.

Bennett H. Young's History of Jessamine county Ky. gives a short sketch of the Moravian Church situated in the west side of the county (which part was settled long before therest) and lists names of the first settlers-- among them "Cooleys". This part of the county is adjacent to the Clear Creek community settled by the Craigs in 1783 or 1784 or thereabouts. There is most likely some connection between the Cooley on Clear Creek and the rest. It sounds probable that the aunt, a widow, came to Ky. to be with either her brothers or parents-- bringing the orphan boy a son of her brother, or brother-in-law, with her. I have an idea that something further might be found in the court records there at Nicholasville. I wish I had time and money enough to take a helper down there to copy any records of interest that I could find.

My friends are much interested-- they just had not thought of going into the past generations, and do not yet understand how to go about it. Then too, Mr. Cooley is handicapped by having only one eye. It is a great effort for him to read readily or write easily-- says he can not focus his sight since loosing the other eye. If he finds out anything further he will let me know and I will send it on to you. He is descended from the Frasier family on his mother's line. He showed me a prayer book belonging to her maternal grandfather-- Jeremiah Edwards born in London Eng. Parish of St. Mary's Church Apr 11/12 Sept. 1728. All that and much more was written in the book

Before closing I want to pass on this little reference which I noted for you while I was checking up on some North Carolina records for a family line of Mr. Howard's.

In Vol. 10, pages 667-668 of Colonial Records of N. C. a letter written from "Camp at Wilmington July 13th, 1776" by "Dr. Cooley" This letter is addressed to "The Council of Safety" and is written in regard to "medical supplies for the 5th Regiment" It is signed "S. COOLEY".

Not taking shorthand notes it is quite an undertaking to copy in pencil and then type all such records I find. If you think it will be on any value I can get one of our D.A.R. Student Loan girls (who always like to make a dollar or so extra) to go and copy it for you---- also can do the same by any Will or Deed you might want at Nicholasville-- although there might be a charge for the search in addition to the copying. Typing is about 15¢ per page single spaced- 8½ by 11.

I am very sorry to have been so long in replying--but feel that you will understand the circumstances. Am more sorry that I can give no additional data. If I happen upon anything at any time will send it to you.

With kindest regards and good wishes for your success in this search (AND DO NOT GIVE IT UP) I am,

Cordially yours,

Virginia W. Howard
Mrs Peyton B. Howard