

MRS. PEYTON B. HOWARD

353 S. MILL STREET

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

October 6th, 1935

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

My dear Mrs. Tallant;-

There is no telling what you think of me! But sickness then company, then more company and then much outside business has kept me from getting at your letter. I have not forgotten it however.

Of course it was necessary to make a trip to Nicholasville to see my friends. We read, reread and discussed your letter but so far have not reached any solution which will throw any light on the question. Indeed I do know just how, maybe weeks, or months, after an item has come in, it will suddenly dawn upon one that THAT is the missing piece in the puzzle! Why I had positive proof of one of my ancestors and it was nearly three months before I suddenly realized that "I HAVE ALL THAT DATA."

I have a new name-- Mr. Tucker Cooley, Supt. Jessamine County Infirmary, Sulphur Road, Nicholasville, Ky. (That is what is sometimes called "The County House, or The Poor House" I do not know this man. He may be able to help out with some information.

Also-- there used to be a Mr. Samuel Lackey who lived in Harrodsburg, Ky. who was a descendant of the early Cooley families. I do not know if he is still living or not. Suggest you write a letter of inquiry and address it to Mr. James L. Isenberg, Harrodsburg, Ky. asking him to deliver your inquiries to Mr. Lackey or some other person who might be connected with Cooleys. When I ever get over there again I'll try to find out something too. Am trying to get the address of some of the William Cooley family of Madison County, Ky. and if the change ever comes along I will get into any records I can for you.

I happen to know that an uncle of mine by marriage goes back to this same family of Edwards that the Cooleys connect with and this said uncle is just now taking an active interest in family tree climbing so maybe he will find something and if he does I'll pass it on. He is going to dig up some records on the Hifner lines in Woodford and Jessamine and "g-g-grandma Hifner was an Edwards" OO- I happen to know of the Cooley-Edwards family.

Sorry to have been so long in writing and more sorry to have so little to tell. Better luck next time. Was glad to hear from you anyway. Am enclosing one of my circulars -please pass it to some library or person who might be interested. Do not hesitate to write me at any time. I'll do what I can.

Cordially yours.

Virginia Howard

*wrote him Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 35*  
*wrote Oct 15<sup>th</sup>*  
*Ans Oct 15<sup>th</sup>*

I am of the opinion that Aaron Henry Cooley was the son of Wm Aaron Cooley; therefore the orphan children were taken by their father's relatives in Carrollton Mo. & Aunt in West. I said this was many relatives in Carrollton Mo. & Aunt in Iowa. There would have been brothers & sisters of Nancy Cooley Fisher.

Her father was William Jefferson Cooley, born and died in Adair County, Ky. (her mother Elizabeth Bryan Cooley)

William Jefferson Cooley was the son of Aaron Henry Cooley (she was not quite sure about that Henry, said it might have been Wm.) *might have been son of Wm Aaron - probably was as he had brothers also in Mo. She said 3 or 4 bro. & sisters went west*

This Aaron Cooley and his wife died the same day from typhoid fever and left a considerable family of small children who were scattered around among the various relatives. William Jefferson Cooley was raised by his aunt-- Nancy Fisher!

Other children of Aaron Cooley were <sup>Cooley</sup> Henry-- died in Carrollton Co. Mo. (2 Mary, married 1st, Robinson, 2nd Brockman. Died in Adair Co. Ky. (3) Adaline, married Thomas, lived and died in Iowa. (4) Sally, married an Anderson--- there were others but she did not remember names of them. I feel sure that your James was one of this group-- or at least kin in some way.

Now Doakes Ford is the place where the above Aaron Cooley and wife died. I could not get positive proof of whether it is in Adair or Taylor county, anyway the place was on Green River. She said she would find out that and many other things for me.

Mrs. Walling says that "Old" Steve Fisher has been dead about 15 years-- was he the one you mentioned or is it a younger one. She says there are a number of them at Holmes but she recalled none by the name of Stephen L. Fisher. How long since you heard from him?

Now this Mrs. Walling has a sister who lives at Holmes, Ky! Mrs. J. B. Cave (Sallie Cooley) Holmes, Ky. You will wish to write to her I am sure. Mrs. Walling is Mrs. C. T. Walling, 544 Maryland Ave. Lexington, Ky. I am sure that they will be glad to go into the hunt with you and get names and dates and perhaps copy grave stones and court house records. They spoke of a brother living in Adair county who would just love to get into all of it. They are very intelligent people who, when once interested, will understand what you want-- and as it is the same as their own line they will gladly do their share without cost to you.

I find that the roads are good to Holmes-- some 125 miles from here and someday we may be able to get down there and get into the records in the right way. In the meantime, by writing to the above ladies you will keep them at work and perhaps get a few more clues. No doubt some of them in Adair County have old Bibles. Mrs. Walling knew all about those Cooleys in Mo. Spoke of how one of them wrote to the post master at some little place in Adair Co. to ask if such a man as Wm. Jefferson Cooley were living-- his brother, raised by other relatives in Mo.-- neither knew if the other was living until grown men. One of them came on from Mo. and visited. It seems that Wm. Jefferson was the only boy to remain in Adair Co. several went to Mo. Which connects with your records.

She could give me no dates at all, and said that it was taking her as such a surprise that she really could not remember half the things I wanted to know-- that they might come to her. She is going to write to some of the kin at once and will let me know what she finds out from them.

We may get some help from the husband of Nellie-- Dr. Earl Blair who is also from that part of the county -Adair- and who is in some way connected with the same families. He it seems is quite interested in tracing lines and they thought that he could get in touch with someone who would have the data needed.---Well anyway it seems like it is getting a little nearer "home".

The impression they had was that the first Cooley came from Virginia. Now I am of the opinion that my friend in Jessamine county goes back to the same line. His ancestor could easily have been one of the orphan children IF IT WERE A GENERATION FURTHER BACK than Mrs. Wallings grandfather. My Cooleys have relatives in Washington County p- neighbor to Adair Co.-- They also said that the family was of Dutch descent-- really German I think from records in old histories. There is another interesting thing. Some of the earliest settlers in "the Green River Country" where Aaron and wife died, were either Rev. soldiers, or the descendants of Rev. soldiers. It might bear looking into-- and I'll remember that too.

All this is rather rambling but it will let you know that I have not forgotten you. I want to express my thanks for the gift enclosed in your last letter. I do not feel that it was due me, but I will use it to keep up the search, and I do appreciate it very much.

Will let you know if anything more turns up. But I advise you to write to Mrs. Cave. She may be able to get more data than Mrs. Walling as she is nearer base. I think Holmes is 15 or 20 miles from the county seat-- Columbia.

With many thanks to you and sincere good wishes for your final success in this search I am.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Howard

*I'd say Mrs Walling is in her 70's - at least not far from 70 by her looks 'tho she may be years younger.*

*Handwritten notes in the right margin, including names like 'Mrs. Walling' and 'Mrs. Cave'.*