

Lauderdale, Miss.  
April 27th, 1932.

Mrs. Mildred B. Tallant.

Your letter of the 15th was forwarded to me and reached me this morning. I fear I cannot give you all the data you want but am pleased to give you what I can.

My mother's name was Dorothy Cooley. Her father (my grandfather) was John Cooley and her mother (my grandmother) was Elizabeth White. They were married in Ky. and came to Randolph Co., Mo. when my mother was an infant. My mother was born in <sup>Mo.</sup> Ky. in 1816. Her father was murdered in 1845 and her mother died in 1851. My mother's brothers and sisters were: Joseph, Thomas, William, Tolbert, John and Wesley; Martha, Nancy, Elvira, Margaret and Eveline. I saw and knew all of them, but they are all dead long ago.

My mother's first husband was her second cousin, Booley, but I do not remember certainly his given name, I believe it was ~~John William~~ <sup>It was John</sup>. She had three booley boys, Joseph, Michael, John William. My father found her in Ray County, Mo. and married her at old Elkhorn Tavern six miles west of Richmond the county seat. I was born at Elkhorn Dec. 22, 1848. But they moved back into Chariton Co., Mo among some of the booley people when I was an infant. My mother died there May 7th, 1851. My mother's booley husband had a brother Benjamin booley. I remember him well - was at his house when I was a boy about 15 years old. He had a daughter named Dorothy. I have her picture.

My mother never lived in Carrollton, Mo., but after her death my father married again and moved to Carrollton, Carroll County and I grew up there until I was twenty years old. My father, Benjamin E. Kiergan was killed in the war Nov. 30, 1864.

I am not sure but I think <sup>for Timothy son of Joseph 3</sup> ~~etc~~ <sup>Cooley I think</sup> nick-name "Tink" is for Thomas. I have heard my father speak of him many times but I don't think I ever knew him personally. I believe he was a brother of my mother's first husband.

I never heard of relatives named Marion Paul or Samuel Withrow. I knew a man in Chariton County, Mo. by that name some forty-five years ago but if we were akin we did not know it.

I never, that I know of, had any kin by the name of Roberts or Robbins. But when I was a child of five years we had a neighbor in Carroll County by the name of Robbins. Oh, yes, I come to think of it. This Mr. Robbins had a son Will Henry Robbins, married <sup>Mariah</sup> ~~Michaela~~ Cooley, daughter of "Uncle" John Cooley in Carroll County. I remember Uncle Johnie very well. My Father said he was a distant relative of my mother's people. I remember well <sup>My grandfather Miller Cooley was married in Carrollton Mo. in 1843 and had relatives living there.</sup>

the Robbins family. If Will Henry Rob-  
bins is living he must be nearly  
three or four years old. This part  
of your inquiry grows on me and  
interest me very much. Will Henry  
and ~~Marial~~<sup>Marial</sup> Booley fell out and got  
a divorce (no unusual thing you  
know) and he married a young  
woman over in Saline County,  
Mo. I don't remember her name.  
Will, H. and Marial had one child  
a little boy (I think). I do not remem-  
ber its given name. But its mother  
kept and raised it. They parted when  
it could not have been more than  
a few months old. I left Barroll-  
ton in 1868, have been there only a  
few times since and only for a few  
days at a time so have lost sight  
of Marial Booley Robbins and her  
child long ago.

I can remember of my father speak-  
ing of a James Booley. My impres-  
sion is that he was closely relat-  
ed to "Uncle Johnie" Booley Mariah  
Robbins' <sup>father</sup> who I mentioned above. But  
I don't remember of having heard of

Miller Widow Cooley  
(my grandfather) crossed the plains from 5  
Missouri to Oregon in 1852.  
Settled first in Lane Co. &  
in 1861 moved to Curry Co on coast.

This is all I can recall now. But  
your letter interests me very much.  
Perhaps, if you will go deeper into the  
matter - write me all you know, ~~and~~  
we can dig some <sup>further</sup> important matters  
up concerning our kin. I think  
we must be related. When we don't  
have the records it is hard to  
connect such matters up. I have  
had an extensive experience in  
tracing the ancestry of my other  
grandmother, Elizabeth Edwards who  
married my grandfather William Kier-  
gan. In that research I found many  
interesting things, among <sup>them I established the fact</sup> that  
that my grandmother Edwards was a  
cousin to Abe Lincoln's mother - their  
mothers were sisters.

Please write me again. Will you kind-  
ly tell me who the woman is that my  
cousin Joseph Cooley wrote to about  
me? I will be glad to hear from you  
soon. Address me at 214 North Linden,  
Sapulpa, Okla. - With much Respect,  
(Over). Arthur M. Kiergan.

P.S. I see I failed to answer your 8th question. No. I never had any Cooley relatives living in Iowa. We were all so far as I know in North Mo., in Randolph, Boone, Chariton, Carroll, Mason and Ray counties.

K.

Please return this letter to me when you have finished taking any desired notes therefrom.

Note: Mr. Kirgan's grandfather was the John Cooley of Howard Co. and he calls the John Cooley of Carroll Co. "Uncle Johnie". (I have written to find out the exact relationship he bears to this "Uncle Johnie" evidently not a first uncle, <sup>but a great uncle</sup> He gets but eleven of his mother's brothers and sisters, as you see.

John Cooley (Uncle Johnie) of Carroll Co was I believe ~~the~~ great uncle of Mr. Kirgan.