

Cooley Family Papers

Scope and Content:

The Cooley Family Papers, received by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association from Historic Fort Wayne, of Detroit, Michigan, and others, consist of original manuscripts of the 18th to the 20th century written by or addressed to members of 3 branches of the Cooley family; genealogy notes; and correspondence of George Sheldon.

The papers are arranged by person, of which a brief biography appears below. Sources of the biographical information include George Sheldon's *History of Deerfield, Massachusetts* (1895), John Montague Smith's *History of the Town of Sunderland, Massachusetts* (1899), and Mortimer Elwyn Cooley's *The Cooley Genealogy* (1941).

Biographical Notes and Description of Manuscripts:

Deerfield, MA, branch of Cooleys

Eli Cooley (1764-1845) was the son of Azariah and Eleanor Warriner Cooley. He lived at Bloody Brook with his wife Chloe Allen. They had 15 children, three of whom are represented below. Eli's papers consist of two deeds to land in Deerfield, dated 1805 and 1841.

Dennis Cooley (1789-1860) was the son of Eli and Eleanor Cooley. He was a doctor who studied with Stephen West Williams. He practiced medicine in Georgia for 5 years. He then moved to Macomb County, Michigan in 1827. He practiced medicine until 1856. He was also postmaster from 1836 until 1859. He married twice, first to Elizabeth Anderson, and then to Clara Andrus. He raised his brother Eli's daughter Emily, and later on, Emily's child. He is represented in this collection with an exchange of letters between him and his brother Eli in 1850.

Caleb Cooley (1800-1845) was the son of Eli and Eleanor Cooley. He married twice, first to Selima Riddle, and then to Esther Packard, daughter of Rev. Theophilus Packard. He lived at Bloody Brook. His papers consist of a deed of land in Deerfield from his father Eli and his wife, to Caleb and his wife.

Sedgwick Cooley (b. 1804) was the son of Eli and Eleanor Cooley. He lived at Bloody Brook, and eventually went to California where he died. He is represented by a quitclaim deed from the Trustees of Smith Charities.

Wealthy Shepard Cooley (1814-1902) was the third wife of Eli Cooley, and the daughter-in-law of Eli and Chloe Cooley. She was born in Buckland and was the first woman enrolled at Mount Holyoke Seminary. She married Eli Cooley in 1849, shortly after her family moved to Chicopee. Her husband Eli worked at the Arms Pocketbook Company in South Deerfield. They had two children, Hollis and Amos. She is represented in the collection by a deed to land in Deerfield from Wealthy to Sarah Cooley. Sarah Cooley is likely the widow of Eli's brother Almond.

Sunderland, MA, branch of Cooleys

Russell Cooley (b. 1780) was the son of Abner and Martha Russell Cooley. He was born in Leverett, but soon moved with his parents to Sunderland. He married his first cousin, **Betsey Cooley (1788-1829)** on January 11, 1808. Betsey was the daughter of Simon and Anna Stowell Cooley who lived in the Plumtrees area. Her father Simon was the brother of Russell's father Abner. Later on, they lived in Deerfield. Russell is represented in the collection by a mortgage on three parcels of land in Deerfield and Betsey is represented by 16 letters written to her by various correspondents.

Clarissa Cooley (1793-1814) was the daughter of Simon and Anna Stowell Cooley and the sister of Betsey Cooley. She is represented by 6 letters written to her from various correspondents.

Charles Cooley (1790-1870) was the son of Simon and Anna Stowell Cooley and the brother of Betsey Cooley. He married twice, first to Mary Stowel of Petersham, and second, to Electa Bartlett. He is represented by 6 letters he wrote to Averill Burnett in the 1840s.

Phila Cooley Alexander (1778-1848) was the daughter of Abner and Martha Russell Cooley and the sister to Russell Cooley. She married Elisha Alexander of Sunderland in 1810. She is represented in the collection with letters and writings from 1800-1822.

Martin Cooley (1750 or 1754-1797) was the son of Simon and Bethia Ashley Cooley. He married Irena Montague in 1777, and then Rebecca Smith Childs in 1784. He was a soldier in the Revolution. He later moved to Deerfield. He is represented by 4 judgments against him in the collection.

Roswell Cooley (1787-1847) was the son of Gideon and Eunice Rowe Cooley, and the grandson of Simon and Bethia Ashley Cooley. He married Eunice Cook of Hadley. He owned the home of Samuel Wright, father of Silas Wright, governor of New York. Roswell and Eunice had 12 children. He is represented by a warranty deed.

Annie Cooley (b. 1871) was the daughter of Lewis Allen Cooley, and the granddaughter of Roswell and Eunice Cooley. She is represented by an autograph book kept from 1876-1877, with names from South Deerfield, New Hampshire, and Savoy, Massachusetts.

Harriet Cooley (b. 1844) was the daughter of Leander Cooley and the great-granddaughter of Martin Cooley. She is likely the subject of the Memorial Stone print, undated, that is present in the collection.

Other Cooleys

Cora Cooley is an unknown individual in the Cooley family. No information can be found about her in the Cooley family genealogy. She is represented in the collection with a bound notebook on Latin lessons dated 1881.

Obediah Cooley (1678-1764), son of Obediah and Rebecca Warner Cooley, was born in Springfield, MA, where he operated a mill. He is represented by a 1904 typed transcript of his will drawn up in 1763.

Oliver Cooley (b. 1772) was the son of Joseph and Jerusha Bissell Cooley. He is descended from Benjamin Cooley, the first Cooley in the Americas. Benjamin Cooley is the last common ancestor between Oliver and the Deerfield and Sunderland branches of the family. Not much is known about Oliver. George Sheldon lists him as a trader and innholder who arrived from Bernardston in 1806 and bought a tavern. He later kept a shop in front of the Salah Barnard tavern. He married Jemima Wells, and then Hannah Field. He had 4 children. He is represented by legal documents, including a number of judgments in his favor.

Container List

(All items in one box)

Folder 1: Papers of Eli Cooley, 1805-1841 (2 items)

Folder 2: Papers of Dennis Cooley, 1850, Sedgwick Cooley, 1855, Caleb Cooley, 1837, and Wealthy Cooley, 1870 (4 items)

Folder 3: Papers of Mr. and Mrs. Russell (Betsey) Cooley, 1814-1827 (17 items)

Folder 4: Papers of Phila Cooley Alexander, 1800-1822 (22 items)

Folder 5: Papers of Clarissa Cooley and Charles Cooley, 1810-1847 (13 items)

Folder 6: Papers of Martin Cooley, 1789-1793, and Roswell Cooley, 1844 (5 items)

Folder 7: Papers of Obediah Cooley, Annie Cooley, 1876, Harriet Cooley, no date, and Cora Cooley, 1881 (4 items)

Folder 8: Papers of Oliver Cooley, 1805-1826 (15 items)

Folder 9: Genealogy and letters re: Cooley family, 1894-1995 (33 items)