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Cooper Family Papers: Finding Aid

Overview of Collection

Creator: Members of Cooper Family
Title: Cooper Family Papers
Date: 1837-1946
Quantity: 4 boxes, 2 linear feet

Restrictions

Important Information for Users of the Collection

This material is open for research with limited restrictions under the conditions of the Morris County Park Commission archives access policy. Records may be copied for use in individual scholarly or personal research; however, as with all materials in the Morris County Park Commission, researchers are responsible for obtaining copyright permission to use material from the collection.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Cooper Family Papers, Courtesy of the Morris County Park Commission.

Acquisition Information

The vast majority of the records were donated to the Morris County Park Commission in 2010 by Marie Duryea (CM2010.3). Other materials in this collection were either found in the collection (CM2011.4; CM2018.1), or purchased/donated (CM2005.2; CM2006.11; CM2011.1) by various individuals.

Processing Information

Described by Lynn Laffey, December 2011
Revised by Chris Rain, December 2013
Finding Aid edited and updated by Katie Humphreys, April 2020

Fonds Parent Record CM2013. 3

Biographical Note

Some of the Cooper Family, descendants of the prominent British Surgeon, Sir Astley Cooper, settled on Long Island in 1700. Nathan Cooper (#1) came from there to the Roxiticus area- comprising the present

towns of Mendham, Chester, Washington, Mount Olive and Roxbury- and purchased 1,600 acres of land. In 1717 he married Mary Miller and their children were Mary and Nathan (#2) [1725-1797]. Nathan #2 married Mehitable Seward in 1748, great aunt to Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State William H. Seward. They had six children, one of whom Nathan (#3) built the Cooper Gristmill in 1826. His brother was Abraham [1762-1818] who married Anna Wills in 1799. They had two children, Beulah Ann and Nathan A. (#4) [1802-1879].

Nathan #4 became a general in 1854 in the N.J. Cavalry. He was a successful man of business, who owned an extensive tract of land and was numbered among the prosperous and progressive citizens of the community. In 1843 he married Mary Henrietta Leddell [1824-1886]. They had nine children, of whom two died in infancy. The other seven lived to maturity: Laura H.; Tillie R. [Abt. 1857 -1935]; Abram W. [1848 – 1933]; Nathan A. (#5); Mary L. [1856-1906]; Anna E. [- 1932] and Beulah S. [- 1927]. When Nathan A. (#4) passed away in 1879 of cardiac rheumatism – he left to his son Abram the “power saw and gristmill” at Milltown, two dwelling houses and five tracts of land. To his son Nathan (#5), he left the “homestead farm.”

Abram W. Cooper was the second in the family. In his youth, he pursued his studies in the common schools. He remained at the old homestead and assisted in its cultivation until the death of his father, when he came to Milltown and took charge of the mill and other property which fell to him as his share of his father's estate. Abram married Mary Turner [1856-1926] on October 12, 1881. They had one child, Mary Dennison “Dennie” Cooper [1887 -].

“Dennie” Cooper married Robert Brull Yarnall [1887-1945] on June 14, 1913. *The New York Times* announcement stated “Wedding at the home of the bride. The Rev. William Saurbraum of the Presbyterian Church performed the ceremony. The bride was attended by Miss Carrie Arnold of Summit, N.J., as maid of honor. Alfred Templer of Newark, N.J. was best man. The couple will reside in Newark, N.J.” Robert Yarnall was from Perryman, Harford Co., Md. He was an accountant and a member of the fraternal order F & A. The couple had two children: Lenore Cooper Yarnall [1917 -] and Robert Brull Yarnall (#2) [1923 -].

Scope and Content Note

The Cooper Family papers are a collection of business records, personal papers, and correspondence belonging to various members of the family. The records herein provide a snapshot of a family's life, but should not be considered comprehensive. The arrangement of the collection reflects the natural groupings found within the Collection: Nathan A Cooper (1802-1879); Abram W. Cooper (1848-1933); Mary Turner Cooper (1856-1926); Mary Dennison Cooper (1887-?); Tillie R. Cooper (1857-1935).

Associated Image Collection

[Cooper Mill Image Collection](#)

The Cooper Mill Image Collection contains just over 60 photographs primarily chronicling the Cooper Gristmill and the Miller's house which was located across the street from the Gristmill. All images contained within this Collection are available on MCPC's online database.

Arrangement

The Cooper Family Papers are organized into 5 series relating to individual family members.

Series 1: Nathan A. Cooper (1802 – 1879)

Letters, transcript, 1837 – 1860s. This series contains material relating to Nathan A. Cooper.

Series 2: Abram W. Cooper (1848 – 1933)

Financial records, letters, 1880-1926. This series contains material relating to Abram W. Cooper. This includes ledgers, bank books, cancelled checks, letters, and a copy of the 1897 Chester Township Democratic Ticket

Series 3: Mary Turner Cooper (1856-1926)

Financial records, 1897- 1926. This series contains material relating to Mary Turner Cooper. This includes memo books, bank books, and cancelled checks.

Series 4: Mary Dennison Cooper (1887 - ?)

Educational material and financial records, 1909 - 1946. This series contains material relating to Mary Dennison Cooper. This includes school notebooks and one financial ledger.

Series 5: Tillie R. Cooper (1857-1935)

Bill and envelope, 1903. This series contains material relating to Tillie R. Cooper.

Container List

Series 1: Nathan A. Cooper [1802 – 1879]

Box Folder

- 1 1 Autographed letter signed by Samuel Galloway to Nathan A. Cooper, 1 page, dated May 23rd, 1837 (CM2011.4.1)
- 2 Autographed letter signed from J. Vanatta to Nathan A. Cooper, 1 page, dated September 2, 1869 (CM2005.2)
- 2a Autographed letter signed from J. Vanatta to Nation A. Cooper, with envelope, 1 page, dated April 8, 1863 (CM2011.1)
- 3 CD, digital copy of Books 1-3, Supreme Court Deposition transcriptions (CM2006.11)

Series 2: Abram W. Cooper [1848-1933]

Box Folder

- 1 4 Ledger, 1874 (CM2011.4.2)
- 5 Ledger, 1876 (CM2011.4.2)
- 6 2 National Iron Bank books, for A.W. Cooper & Anna E. Cooper for estate of Nathan A. Cooper and A.W. Cooper, 1880 (CM2011.4.2)
- 7 First National Bank Account Book, 1884 (CM2011.4.2)
- 8 National Iron Bank checkbook, 1882-1888 (CM2011.4.2)
- 9 National Union Bank book, 1898 (CM2010.3.1)
- 10 partial document, "The Jackson Health Resort" (CM2010.3.1)

- 11 letter, from Dr. C.R. Ray with envelope (CM2010.3.1)
Envelope, printed return address "C.R. Ray" (CM2010.3.1)
- 12 8 miscellaneous receipts for bills (CM2010.3.1)
- 13 6 miscellaneous invoices (CM2010.3.1)
- 14 Miscellaneous notes (CM2010.3.1)
- 15 Chester Township Democratic Ticket, 1897, note: A.W. Cooper listed for Township Committee
(CM2010.3.1)
- 16 Western Union Telegram regarding the death of Mr. Wills (CM2010.3.1)
- 17 purchase of Cooper Mill Farm, 1926 (CM2010.3.1)
- 18 Misc. banking papers (CM2010.3.1)

Box Folder

- 2 49 cancelled checks, 1884 – 1886, signed Abram W. Cooper trustee of Nathan A. Cooper
Deceased (CM2011.4.2)
- 17 cancelled checks, 1882-1883, signed by Abram W. Cooper (CM2011.4.2)
- 75 cancelled checks (from Hancock, Beels & Co; National Iron Bank; First National Bank), 1882-1926,
signed by Abram W. Cooper, removed from
Envelope, 12/2011, with printed return address label "The First National Bank"
(CM2010.3.1)
- 89 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1887-1925, signed by A.W. Cooper, removed from envelope,
12/2011, with printed return address "Wills A. Seward" (CM2010.3.1)
- 1 First National Bank cancelled check, 1884, signed by A. W. Cooper (CM2010.3.1)
- 27 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1931, signed by A. W. Cooper (CM2010.3.1)
- 30 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1923 – 1926, signed by A.W. Cooper, removed from envelope,
12/2011, addressed to "Abram W. Cooper" with printed return address label "Cooper Iron Mining
Co." (CM2010.3.1)
- 2 National Union Bank blank checks, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to "Mr. A.W.
Cooper (typed) with printed return address "The First National Bank" (CM2010.3.1)
- 8 Morristown Trust Company cancelled Checks, 1929, signed by A.W. Cooper, removed from envelope,
12/2011, addressed to "Mr. A.W. Cooper (typed) with printed return address "The First National
Bank" (CM2010.3.1)
- 23 National Iron Bank cancelled checks, 1880-1887 (plus 3 with no date), signed by A.W. Cooper,
removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to "Mr. A.W. Cooper (typed) with printed return
address "The First National Bank" (CM2010.3.1)
- 10 National Iron Bank cancelled checks, 1884-1896, signed by A.W. Cooper trustee of Nation A.
Cooper, deceased, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to "Mr. A.W. Cooper (typed) with
printed return address "The First National Bank" (CM2010.3.1)
- 63 National Union Bank cancelled checks, 1891-1899, signed by A.W. Cooper, removed from envelope,
12/2011, addressed to "Mr. A.W. Cooper (typed) with printed return address "The First National
Bank" (CM2010.3.1)
- 158 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1884-1933, signed by A.W. Cooper, removed from envelope,
12/2011, addressed to "Mr. A.W. Cooper (typed) with printed return address "The First National
Bank" (CM2010.3.1)

- 3
 - 4 Checkbooks stubs from National Union Bank (CM2010.3.1)
 - 3 checkbooks (CM2010.3.1)
 - 6 Morristown Trust Company checkbooks (CM2010.3.1)
 - 18 First National Bank checkbooks (CM2010.3.1)
 - 1 checkbook, 1890 (CM2011.4.2)

Series 3: Mary Turner Cooper [1856-1926]

Box Folder

- 1
 - 19 Memo book, 1916 (CM2011.4.3)
 - 20 Memo book, 1922 (CM2011.4.3)
 - 21 Notebook, c. 1928 (CM2011.4.3)
 - 22 North Ward National Bank book, 1909 (CM2011.4.3)
 - 23 Morristown Trust Company Bank book, 1903 – 1911 (CM2010.3.2)
 - First National Bank book, 1901 – 1914 (CM2010.3.2)
 - First National Bank book, 1914-1926 (CM2010.3.2)
 - The North Ward National Bank book, 1922 (CM2010.3.2)

- 2
 - 6 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1924-1926, signed by Mary T. Cooper, (CM2010.3.2)
 - 9 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1924-1925, signed by Mary T. Cooper, (CM2010.3.2)
 - 14 North Ward National Bank cancelled checks, 1909-1929, signed by Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, with printed return address label “Delaware, Lackawanna & Western R.R.” (CM2010.3.2)
 - 35 Morristown Trust Company cancelled checks, 1907-1918, signed Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, with printed return address label “Delaware, Lackawanna & Western R.R.” (CM2010.3.2)
 - 199 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1898 – 1924, signed Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, with printed return address label “Delaware, Lackawanna & Western R.R.” (CM2010.3.2)
 - 20 Morristown Trust Company cancelled checks, 1908-1916, signed Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to “Mrs. A.W. Cooper”/with printed return address label “First National Bank” (CM2010.3.2)
 - 10 North Ward National Bank cancelled checks, 1910-1928, signed Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to “Mrs. A.W. Cooper”/with printed return address label “First National Bank” (CM2010.3.2)
 - 104 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1904-1923, signed Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to “Mrs. A.W. Cooper”/with printed return address label “First National Bank” (CM2010.3.2)
 - 16 North Ward National Bank cancelled checks, 1909-1910, signed by Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to Mrs. A.W. Cooper with printed return address label “Morristown Trust Company” (CM2010.3.2)

- 37 Morristown Trust Company cancelled checks, 1908-1916, signed by Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to Mrs. A.W. Cooper with printed return address label "Morristown Trust Company" (CM2010.3.2)
- 57 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1909-1919, signed by Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to Mrs. A.W. Cooper with printed return address label "Morristown Trust Company" (CM2010.3.2)
- 36 Morristown Trust Company cancelled checks, 1903-1914, signed by Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to Mrs. Abraham W. Cooper" with printed return address label "The First National Bank" (CM2010.3.2)
- 125 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1897-192, signed by Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to Mrs. Abraham W. Cooper" with printed return address label "The First National Bank" (CM2010.3.2)
- 1 North Ward National Bank cancelled check, 1917, signed by Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to "Mr. A.W. Cooper (typed) with printed return address "The First National Bank" (CM2010.3.2)
- 6 First National Bank cancelled checks, 1921-1924, signed by Mary T. Cooper, removed from envelope, 12/2011, addressed to "Mr. A.W. Cooper (typed) with printed return address "The First National Bank" (CM2010.3.2)

- 3 2 North Ward National Bank checkbook (CM2010.3.2)

Series 4: Mary Dennison Cooper [1887 -]

Box Folder

- 4 1 ledger, 1942-1946 (CM2010.3.3)
- 2 3 school essays, c. 1909 (CM2010.3.3)
- 3 "Blank Writing Book No.2", re: practicing penmanship (CM2010.3.3)
- 4 loose sheets with artwork (CM2010.3.3)
- 5 2 folders labeled "Montclair State Normal School" with school work, c. 1908 (CM2010.3.3)
- 6 2 "Student Note Book" for History and Psychology (CM2010.3.3)
- 7 2 notebooks: grammar and psychology notebook (CM2010.3.3)
- 8 Composition book: English (CM2010.3.3)

Series 5: Tillie R. Cooper [1857 - 1935]

Box Folder

- 1 24 Bill from P. H. Hoffman & Son, April 1 1903, for \$49.75 and envelope addressed to Tillie R. Cooper, Chester, NJ (CM2013.005.1)