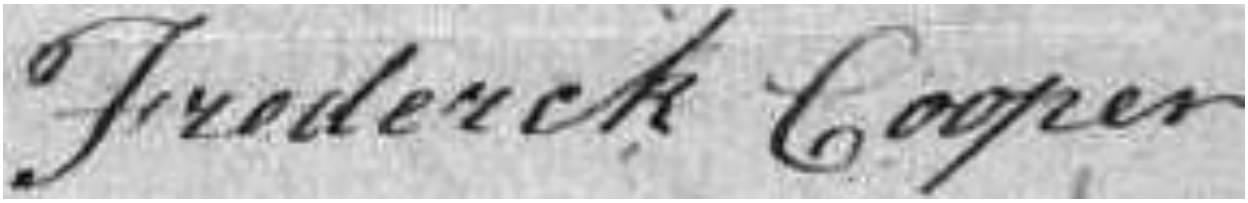
The Life of

Frederick Cooper

(1750/1762–1805)



of

Blackwater Swamp, Surry County, Virginia

Son of George Cooper & Mary Ellis

by Timothy Dean Hudson

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Introduction

Frederick Cooper was probably born in the late 1750s. His life unfolded along the Blackwater Swamp in southern Surry County, Virginia, where he worked as a farmer and woodsman. His backcountry world was defined by long-established kin networks, modest landholdings, and a stubborn self-reliance that stood apart from the plantation aristocracy along the James River in northern Surry. The Blackwater region formed a distinct agrarian culture largely composed of middling and yeoman farmers and landless poor [1].

Although he grew up in a rather remote region, as a child Fred Cooper received an education more advanced than many of his neighbors. Unlike most of his contemporaries, as an adult he had a beautiful signature that reveals a mastery of penmanship. At his death in 1805, his possessions included *"A parcel of old Books,"* indicating that he retained literary interests during his adult life.

Fred's literacy, landholding status, and long-standing family ties in the Blackwater community positioned him for regular involvement in civic duties. He routinely witnessed wills and appraised the estates of deceased relatives, friends, and neighbors, and consistently voted in local elections.

He was a yeoman farmer who cultivated a 100-acre farm that he inherited from his father and grandfather. This made him solidly independent, but not prosperous. He balanced modest commercial production—corn and wheat, then among Virginia's primary cash crops—with a diversified subsistence regime that included cotton, oats, flax, vegetables, and a wide array of livestock—including horses, cattle, sheep, geese, hogs—and beehives [2]. Cooper butchered large quantities of hogs for making bacon and sold cattle to his neighbors. He owned both carpenter's and shoemaker's tools, and he kept a large amount of lumber on hand at his farm.

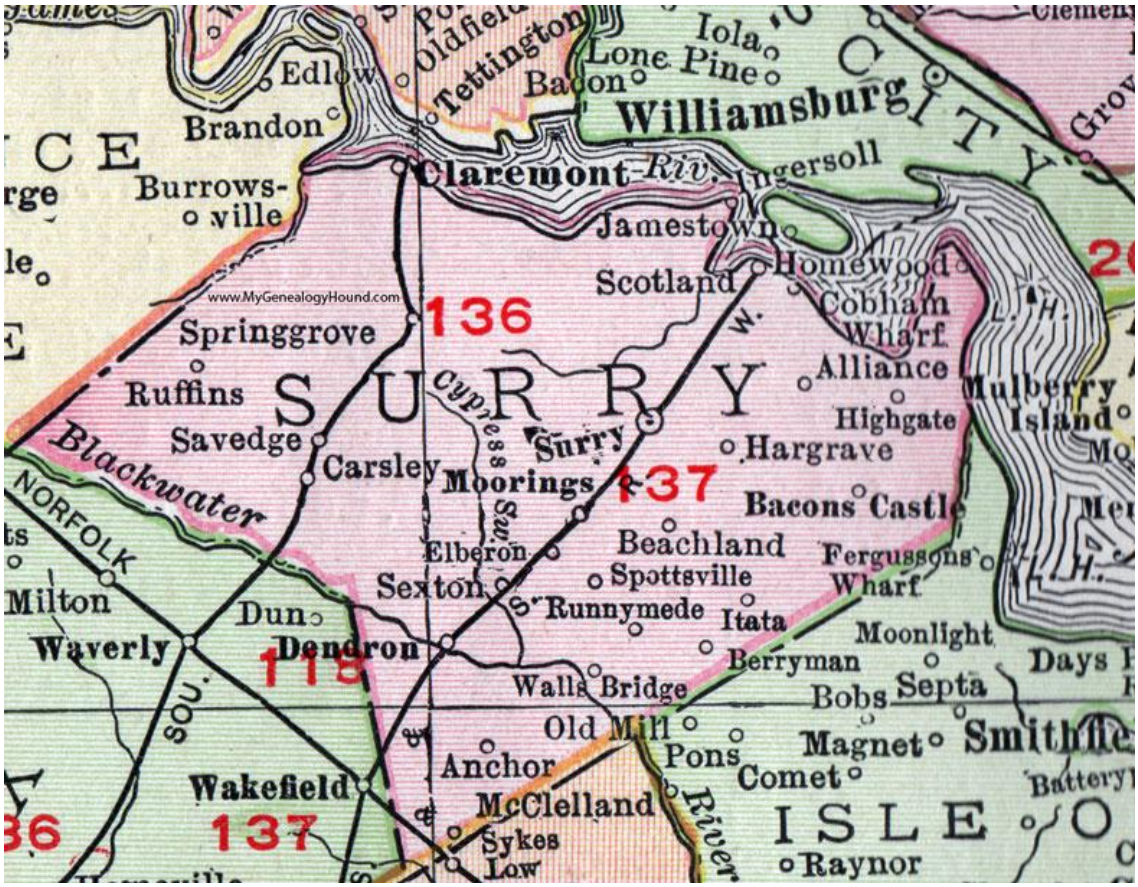
Through his mixture of cash crops, subsistence production, and skilled handiwork, Cooper embodied the practical self-sufficiency characteristic of the Blackwater's middling farmers.

In addition to farming, Cooper hunted deer, with his finest gun one of his most prized possessions. He cured deer hides to make leather, probably himself making the *"two leather bottom chairs"* that he left to his wife at his death. He owned a canoe that he used to travel along the Blackwater Swamp to hunt deer and probably other game [3].

His domestic life was marked by repeated loss: his first wife died soon after their daughter's birth, and his second wife died shortly after their marriage. He had no children by his third wife, who survived him.

Fred Cooper's life story is firmly rooted in family and steadfastness—he cared for his widowed mother and disabled sister, cultivated the same land that his grandfather had obtained eight decades earlier, and maintained the same agricultural routine for a quarter-century after

assuming ownership of his farm. His life was brief—likely ending in his forties—but marked by continuity, responsibility, and deep attachment to the land he had inherited. Shortly before his death, he made provisions for his widow and young daughter.



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Ancestry

Frederick Cooper descended from a line of landholding families whose presence in Surry County, Virginia spanned more than a century. His great-grandfather James Cooper had settled in Surry prior to 3 November 1701, when he paid 5000 pounds of tobacco for a 100-acre tract of land there. James' precise origins are not properly documented and claims that he was born in Warwickshire or London, England in 1675 are unsubstantiated. He paid his 1704 quit rents on 100 acres of land in Surry [1] and remained there for the next two decades. James Cooper wrote his will in February 1730, leaving his property to his wife, Elizabeth, and his five children, including Fred's grandfather, William. James Cooper died in Surry County in 1734 [2].

William Cooper was born between about 1700 and 1705 in Surry. On 16 September 1724, he paid £25 *"Currant Money of Virginia"* for a 489-acre tract of land in southern Surry on the north side of the Blackwater Swamp. This acquisition of nearly 500 acres shaped the family's long-term social position and marked the Coopers' transition from modest landholders to substantial backcountry farmers. William's descendants farmed portions of this land for the next two centuries [3].

William wrote his will on 4 April 1756, dividing his lands between his three sons and one daughter. To his son, George, he made this bequest:

> *I Give and Bequeath to my Son George Cooper the Plantation whereon he now Lives to a new Line Containing one Hundred & thirty Acres…*

William Cooper's wife predeceased him, and no other known record identifies her. He lived four more years, with his will filed with the Surry County Court on 26 November 1759, shortly after his death [4].

George Cooper was born about 1730 in Surry County and married between about 1748 and 1750 to Mary Ellis. George and Mary spent their lives on the 130-acre farm that George inherited in 1759. They had only one son, Frederick, and three daughters [5]. George and Mary's land holdings anchored them firmly as middling yeoman farmers.

Fred's mother, Mary Ellis Cooper, was the daughter of Caleb Ellis Sr. (c1700–c1762) [6] and Amelia Shockey [7]. Mary was named in the 1736 will of her maternal grandmother, Alice Shockey, who left *"to my grandaughter* [sic] *Mary Ellis my woolling Spining wheele"* [8].

Amelia Shockey Ellis, also known as Mildred and *"Meley Ellis,"* was the daughter of Richard Shockey, who first appears in Surry County as a free white male tithable in 1689. This places Shockey's birth prior to 1673 [9]. In December 1702, Richard Shockey served in the Surry County Dragoons, or cavalry, commanded by Capt. William Brown [10]. He acquired a 300-acre tract of

land in southern Surry County along the Blackwater Swamp prior to 1717 [11]. Richard Shockey died in Surry about 1731, probably around sixty years of age [12].

Shockey's land adjoined the 489 acres that William Cooper purchased in 1724 [13]. The proximity of the Shockey and Cooper lands suggests a longstanding geographic and social relationship between the families.

Fred Cooper's grandfather, Caleb Ellis Sr., was the son of Jeremiah Ellis Jr. (c1671–c1738) [14], who was himself the son of Jeremiah Ellis Sr. (c1643–c1722) [15]. In 1687, both Jeremiah Ellis Sr. and Jeremiah Jr. served in the Surry County Militia [16], and fifteen years later, in December 1702, father and son both served in the *"Company of Foot,"* Surry County Militia commanded by Capt. William Brown. The elder Jeremiah was by then aged fifty-nine years, and on the muster roll, his commanding officer marked him as *"too old for service"* [17].

Earlier, in 1676–1677, Jeremiah Ellis Sr. appears to have sympathized with the insurgents during Bacon's Rebellion. During the reprisals that followed the collapse of the rebellion, Ellis provided a deposition before the Surry Court on 4 July 1677 regarding his visit to the house of Henry Francis, who was an associate of Maj. William Rookings, one of the leaders of the insurgents. The purpose of Ellis' deposition is unclear, but the fact that Ellis visited the Francis home suggests he sympathized with Bacon's cause [18].

Jeremiah Ellis Sr. apparently did not take an active part in the violent demonstrations against Royal authority, as he did not suffer consequences like many of the more active supporters. A few years later, on 2 May 1682, the Surry County Court appointed Ellis as sub sheriff [19]. Ellis's appearance in both rebellious and official roles reflects the fluid political loyalties and pragmatic localism of late-seventeenth century Surry.

Jeremiah Ellis Sr. was the son of Edward Ellis, who was brought to Virginia by 1636 and appears to have repaid the cost of his passage from England with a period of servitude [20]. In the early 1650s, Edward acquired land on Chippokes Creek in Surry County, located across the James River from Jamestown [21].

By the mid-seventeenth century, the Ellis family had established a durable foothold in Surry County, laying the foundation for the tightly connected family network into which Frederick Cooper was born a century later.

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Surry County Farmer

Frederick Cooper must have grown up on his father's 130-acre farm along the north side of the Blackwater Swamp in southern Surry County, but the surviving records reveal no details of his early life. His precise year of birth is even uncertain. He could have been born in the early 1750s, soon after his parents' marriage or as late as about 1762. Because he was legally of age in 1782 yet did not marry until 1791, he was likely still a young man—probably in his early twenties—when he inherited the farm. The most reasonable estimate is that his birth occurred in the late 1750s or about 1760 [1]. Such gaps in documentation are typical across Surry County, as few church registers or Bible records have survived, especially in the Blackwater region.

Although of military age between 1776 and 1782, no known records prove that Frederick participated in any military activities during the Revolutionary War. Many of his contemporaries in the Blackwater region did serve in the Surry County Militia, especially as the conflict reached its 1781 climax [2]. When British naval forces began raiding the James River plantations that year, officials mobilized local militia units to guard the river and support the Patriot Army laying siege to the British at Yorktown. Unfortunately, records of Virginia militia units are incomplete, with very few unit rosters or muster rolls in existence to identify Surry County soldiers who served during the conflict. Given the county's 1781 mobilization and absence of surviving muster rolls, it remains entirely plausible that Cooper served, though no record confirms it.

Regardless of his activities during the Revolutionary War years, Fred Cooper turned his focus to farming. For farmers like him, Surry's agricultural geography dictated what crops were viable and which markets they could reach, and thus shaped the inherent character of his livelihood.

Although tobacco formed the primary cash crop in Tidewater Virginia during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the cultivation of high-grade, marketable tobacco required a specific soil type and a narrow range of environmental conditions. The light, sandy, well-drained soils of the James-York Peninsula produced high-grade tobacco, as did the soils across the James River in the northern portion of Surry County paralleling the river. These upland soils proved ideal for producing the lucrative strain of tobacco known as *"sweet-scented"* [3].

By 1700, the northern swath of Surry along the James River was checkered with vast tobacco plantations operated by numerous enslaved workers. A high-society plantation culture developed, and the region became a prime producer of quality tobacco. The 1730 Tobacco Inspection Act created inspection warehouses in the Tidewater counties along the main rivers. While many Virginia counties had only one warehouse, the General Assembly created two in Surry, both on creeks that emptied into the James River: at Cabin Point, on Upper Chippokes Creek, and further

downriver at Gray's Creek, whose mouth lies opposite the town of Cobham [4]. This is an indication of the volume and quality of the tobacco that Surry produced.

Frederick Cooper's multi-generational ancestral home along the Blackwater Swamp in lower Surry County was far removed from the elite tobacco culture along the James in northern Surry. The Blackwater region technically lay outside the James River Watershed, and its soils had completely different characteristics than the prime tobacco lands to the north. Although the Blackwater region had some upland areas perhaps well-suited for tobacco production, much of the area was dominated by rich, heavy, moldy soils typical of fertile lowlands—not suitable for growing tobacco. Instead, these soils proved ideal for the cultivation of *"Indian Corn,"* or maize, wheat, and other grains.

Although the cultivation of tobacco dominated Virginia culture throughout the colonial period, due to market conditions, the production of wheat, corn, and other grains became common across Virginia in the eighteenth century, especially in areas whose soils were not ideally suited for yielding high-quality tobacco like the Coopers' [5]. By 1739, Virginia exported 58,000 bushels of wheat and 83,000 bushels of Indian corn from the James, York, and Rappahannock Rivers to the West Indies and New England. That year, the value of these exports totaled £11,000, and so wheat and Indian corn had become a profitable part of Virginia's agricultural exports [6].

The surviving probate records and known soil characteristics of the Blackwater lands indicate that George and Fred Cooper primarily raised wheat, corn, and other grains, cotton as a household textile crop, and perhaps a limited amount of tobacco [7].

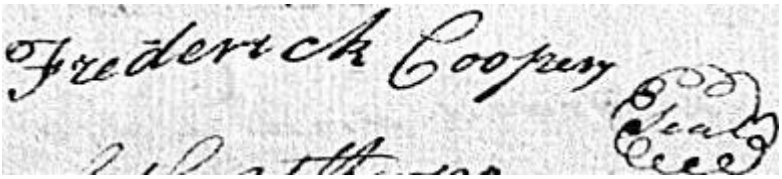
Unlike many of their neighbors, the Coopers did not own slaves, and this left them with a very limited labor force with which to cultivate their lands. Their lack of enslaved workers, landholdings of 100–130 acres, and livestock holdings anchor them in the class of yeoman farmers, not middling ones. They could have planted a few acres of wheat, which was labor-intensive but increased profits since 90% of the crop was marketable. Planting additional acreage in maize and selling livestock or other produce probably supplemented their income [8].

George Cooper wrote his will on 14 October 1781, and after leaving specific personal property to his wife, Mary, and daughters, Emelia Cooper Collier and Jane Cooper, he made this bequest to his only son:

> *I give and bequeath to my Son Frederick Cooper all the remainder of my Estate and what was lent to my Wife at her decease except what is before mentioned, maintaining my Daughter Agnes Cooper during her life.*

This suggests that Agnes had either a mental or physical disability. George also named his wife and son as his executors. By giving Frederick the bulk of his estate, George placed him in possession of his 130-acre farm.

On 26 March 1782, Frederick filed his father's will with the Surry County Court, an indication that George Cooper had recently died. On that same day, Frederick posted bond to serve as the executor of his father's will. Mary Ellis Cooper chose not to appear in court, leaving the executorship responsibilities to her son [9]. On that same day, Frederick Cooper sold a 24½-acre tract of his father's land to their neighbor, John Tillott, for £14 14s. The surviving Surry County loose papers include a copy of this document signed by Fred Cooper. His distinctive signature suggests that his parents provided him with a solid educational background [10]:



For the next quarter-century, Frederick Cooper farmed his father's old lands in Surry County, Virginia. The 1782 Virginia State Enumeration made the year of his father's death showed Frederick as the head of a household consisting of four white people and no slaves. Presumably, the four members of the Cooper household consisted of the widowed Mary Ellis Cooper, Frederick's sisters, Agnes and Jane, and himself.

The 1784 state enumeration showed *"Fred. Cooper"* as the head of a household in the *"Johnchocohunk"* Precinct of southern Surry County. Four *"white souls"* lived on his farm, which consisted of one dwelling and two other buildings, including a smokehouse and *"1 Dairy"* building, perhaps a barn that housed his milk cows. This reflects his modest but entirely functional farmstead [11].

Frederick Cooper's father had left him the land that he had inherited from his father, William Cooper, and in the 1750s, the Cooper land adjoined that of John Justiss, who died in 1775. Justiss left his lands to his son, William Justiss, and in the 1780s and 1790s, Fred Cooper's farm adjoined the lands of William Justiss and his son, John, Jesse Sheffield, John Tillott, and Surry Court Justice John Watkins Jr.

Cooper's land also adjoined a 554-acre tract that Thomas and Mary Howard sold in June 1784 to William Blunt. That record shows that Cooper's land lay near Birch Island Road, Thomas Washington's *"Mill Branch,"* and the 400-acre plantation of Nathaniel Sebrell Sr. In 1793, Blunt

sold his 721-acre tract that adjoined Frederick Cooper's land to Nathan Jones [12]. This cluster of neighbors formed the social world in which Cooper lived and worked.

On 26 July 1785, the Surry Court redrew the precinct lines, ordering that *"the County be laid off into convenient precincts for keeping the several Roads within the same in lawful repair."* They put the Cooper farm into the Raleigh Precinct, encompassing the area bounded by the road running along John Tillott's farm and the Bowling Alley Road.

The Court appointed Revolutionary War veteran Michael Carsley as the road surveyor, ordering *"that he keep the same in lawful repair"* and that all *"male labouring Tithables belonging to"* Frederick Cooper, his uncle, John Cooper, William Justiss, and William Rae *"do severally attend the said Surveyor."* In 1800, Rae's son, William Rae Jr., married Frederick Cooper's niece, Emelia Collier [13].

Frederick Cooper's life as a farmer and woodsman along the Blackwater Swamp unfolded within the constraints and limited opportunities of a landscape that shaped every aspect of his life story. Working soils unsuited to elite tobacco culture and without the enslaved labor of the plantations to the north, he carefully balanced grain cultivation, livestock production, and the steady labor of his small household for his livelihood. His world was defined not by aspirations toward the county's plantation elite but by continuity—of land, family, and civic obligation—and by the independence available to yeoman families in lower Surry. The surviving records that trace his crops, his neighbors, and his civic activities reveal a man whose daily labor was inseparable from the geography that sustained him. This positions Cooper as a representative figure of the Blackwater's rural farmers, whose quiet presence anchored the region's agrarian character long after the Revolution had passed.

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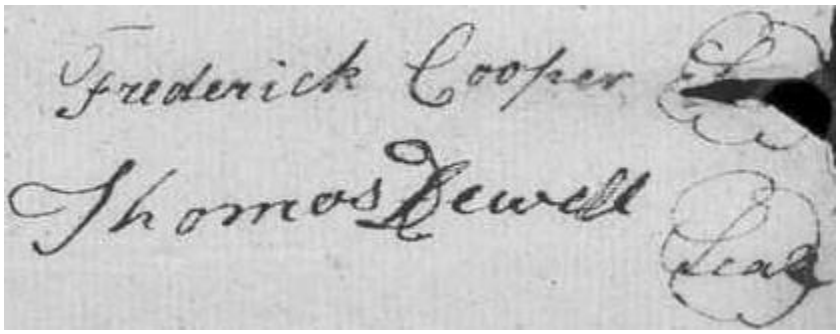
Family Life

Although Frederick Cooper was likely born in the late 1750s or about 1760, no surviving evidence indicates that he married prior to 1791 when he was probably in his early thirties. As this is about a decade later than men of that era typically married, it is possible he married earlier than 1791 and his first wife died [1].

Until the mid-nineteenth century, Virginia law required that to secure a marriage license from the county clerk, the prospective groom had to appear before the clerk and sign a bond to secure his intention to marry his intended bride. He had to bring another man with him to the courthouse to serve as his security on the bond. This process helped to demonstrate the potential groom's standing in the community, since he needed a trusted man to serve as security.

On 11 February 1791, Frederick Cooper appeared before Capt. Jacob Faulcon, the Surry County Clerk, to sign a marriage bond to obtain a license to marry Elizabeth Dewell (Betsy). Her father, Thomas Dewell, accompanied Cooper to serve as his security, and together they signed their names to the marriage bond:



Two weeks later, on February 24th, a marriage was solemnized between Fred and Betsy [2].

Betsy's parents, Thomas Dewell and Elizabeth Barnes, had married between about 1755 and 1760. When Elizabeth Barnes Dewell's father, Henry Barnes Sr., wrote his will in 1759, he left her 100 acres of land [3]. Eighteen years later, on 19 November 1777, Dewell's brother-in-law, William Barnes, sold him a 225-acre tract of land in Southwark Parish, Surry County left to him by his father. Dewell paid William Barnes £20 *"Current Money of Virginia"* for the property. It adjoined the 100 acres that Elizabeth had received from her father in 1759 [4].

Betsy Dewell grew up during the 1770s and 1780s on her parent's farm along the Blackwater Swamp. The 1782 Virginia State Enumeration showed that Thomas Dewell's Surry County household consisted of six white people and no slaves. In 1784, his household only consisted of four *"white souls,"* one dwelling house, and one *"Smoke House"* [5]. Dewell operated his 325-acre

farm during this period, and tax records between 1782 and 1794 show him paying taxes on his land and on livestock [6].

Thomas Dewell paid his 1794 land and personal property taxes [7], and on 1 February 1795, he witnessed a land transaction, signing his name to the document as he had previously [8]. Shortly afterwards, probably in March or April 1795, Thomas Dewell died [9].

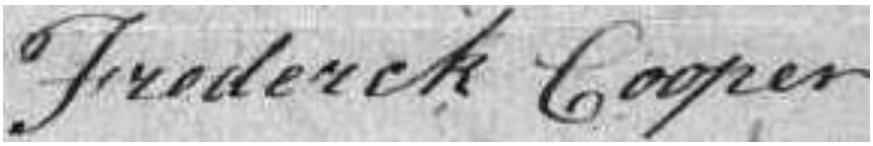
Thomas and Elizabeth Barnes Dewell had only two children to survive to adulthood, Betsy Cooper and Henry Dewell. There is no known record of what became of Elizabeth, but she predeceased her husband.

Perhaps foreseeing his impending demise, Dewell began the legal process of dividing his lands between his two children, but death came prior to its completion. Soon afterwards, Betsy and her brother began the legal steps to divide their parents' land between them, but again fate interfered. Betsy died about 1797 before she and her brother completed the legal process.

This left Thomas Dewell's 325-acre tract of land in the possession of Henry Dewell and Betsy's only child, Rebecca Cooper. By the terms of Henry Barnes' 1759 will, the 100 acres he left to his daughter, Elizabeth Dewell, went to his grandson, but the remaining 225 acres that Thomas Dewell owned was inherited jointly by Henry Dewell and Rebecca Cooper.

On 20 January 1798, Frederick Cooper and Henry Dewell signed a legal agreement to divide the Dewell land between Henry Dewell and his niece, Rebecca. The next month, Cooper and Dewell presented their agreement to the Surry County Court for recording [10]. In 1804, the land that Rebecca Cooper and Henry Dewell owned lay in the Cypress Swamp Precinct, the region bounded by the Cypress and Johnchecohunk Swamps [11].

With the legal process of putting his deceased wife's property into their daughter's name complete, Fred turned his attention to his own domestic situation. On 20 July 1798, he posted bond to obtain a license to marry Sarah Rogers. Frederick's uncle, Benjamin Ellis, served as security on his marriage bond. The original record gives us another sample of Cooper's signature:



Frederick and Sarah were married shortly afterwards [12]. Sarah did not live long after their marriage, possibly dying in childbirth in 1798 or 1799.

On 5 December 1799, Frederick Cooper posted bond in neighboring Sussex County, Virginia to marry Elizabeth Barker, the widow of Thomas Barker who had died in 1781. Archibald W. Bowles

served as security on Cooper's bond, and on the same day, Cooper served as the security on Bowles' marriage bond to obtain a license to marry Elizabeth's daughter, Rowany Barker. Both couples married a double wedding ceremony held on December 12th, with minister Drewry Lane solemnizing the vows for both couples [13].

The arc of Frederick's family life reflects the precariousness of childbirth in the late eighteenth century. Though he lost two wives in quick succession, the survival of his daughter provided a living link between the Coopers, Dewells, and the Barnes lands, carrying forward the family's presence in the Blackwater region.

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Local Activities

Frederick Cooper's civic record reveals a man deeply entrenched in the legal, political, and social life of the Blackwater Swamp region of southern Surry County. His repeated service as juror, appraiser, witness, and voter demonstrates the community trust in him and his steady fulfillment of civic obligations. His civic life offers a window into rural Virginia's system of kinship-based governance, highlighting the centrality of family networks in local civil administration. The records here fully illustrate how Cooper's life intersected with the county-level civic machinery of Surry County.

His civic appearances between 1781 and 1805 fall into several recurring categories—witnessing wills and deeds, appraising estates, serving on grand juries, and participating in road oversight. Each reveals a different facet of Surry's civic machinery, and together they create a composite portrait of Cooper's public life:

3 July 1781 – Anthony Adkins signed his will, naming his brother-in-law, Stephen Jordan, and Frederick Cooper as his executors. Adkins requested that Jordan and Cooper

> *...would lay off the Land between my Sons and do for the best as it soundeth good in them for all my Children, and to take care of my poor Brother James.*

Stephen Jordan presented Adkins' will to the Surry County Court on 28 August 1781 and qualified as executor. Frederick left the executor's duties to Jordan. Although he did not appear before the Court that day, the justices issued this decree regarding Cooper: *"liberty is reserved the other Executor to join in the Probat*[e] *when he shall think fit"* [1]. It was standard for a close relative to handle such duties by themselves when the estate's value was as low as Atkins' [2].

12 June 1787 – Frederick Cooper witnessed the will of his first cousin, Isaac Ellis, son of his mother's brother, Richard Ellis. Nathaniel Sebrell witnessed Ellis' will along with Cooper; eighteen years later, Cooper described Nathaniel's son, Capt. David Sebrell, as *"my friend"* and appointed the younger Sebrell as his executor.

On September 25th, Cooper appeared before the Surry County Court and swore that he saw his cousin sign the document as his will [3]. The following month, on October 25th, Frederick Cooper, Nathaniel Sebrell, and William Justiss appraised Isaac Ellis' estate [4]. Twenty-five years later, Cooper's daughter married Sebrell's grandson, underscoring the tight weave of these family networks.

27 Nov 1787 – Frederick Cooper, his nephew, John Collier, and his neighbors William Justiss, Richard Blunt, John Tillott, Burwell Sharp, and Jesse Warren all served on *"A Jury of grand Inquest for the body of this County"* impaneled by the Surry County Court [5]. This underscores

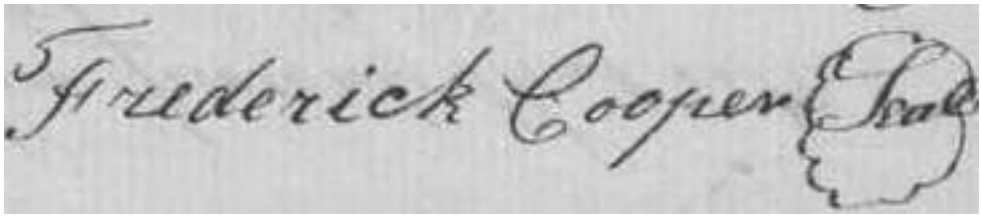
Cooper's standing in the community, since grand jurors were drawn from trusted local residents.

30 Mar 1788 – Frederick Cooper witnessed the will of John Cheatham. The original will is among several documents bearing Cooper's signature, providing clear evidence of his literacy and civic presence:



On 27 January 1789, Frederick Cooper appeared before the Surry County Court to swear to his signature [6].

4 May 1791 – Frederick Cooper served as security on the marriage bond of his uncle, Benjamin Ellis, in preparation for his upcoming third marriage to Sarah Jones [7]:



Cooper's role as his uncle's security illustrates the kinship-based civic labor that sustained local governance in rural eighteenth-century Virginia. Seven years later, Ellis and his nephew switched roles. When Cooper obtained a marriage bond in 1798, Ellis served as Cooper's security [8].

25 Oct 1791 – The Surry County Court ordered any three of Frederick Cooper, his uncle, John Cooper, Michael Carsley, or Edmund Carsley to appraise the estate of Thomas Burgess [9]. This was the first of many instances in which the court called on Cooper as an appraiser, reflecting his trustworthiness and reputation in the community.

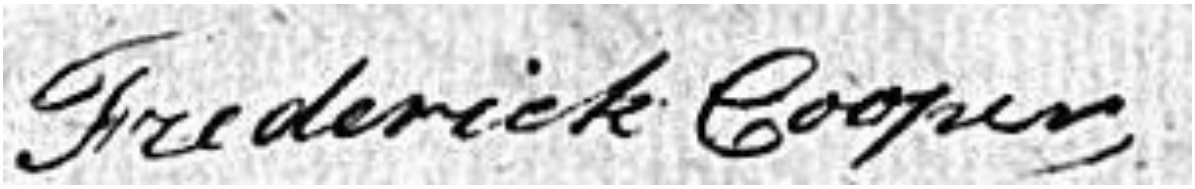
27 Aug 1793 – Frederick Cooper appeared at Surry's courthouse as summoned to serve on *"A Jury of Grand Inquest."* After receiving their charge, the men withdrew to consider the business before them. Upon their return, the grand jury issued these *"presentments,"* or indictments, against the indicated road overseers, *"for not keeping the same in lawful repair:"*

- *"the Overseer of the road from Birth Island to Cypress bridge"*
- *"the Overseer of the road from Cypress bridge to the fork at Col^{o} Faulcon's Plantation"*
- *"the Overseer of the road from Capt Belsches's to low Point"*

- *"Robert McIntosh for not keeping his Mill dam in lawful repair"*

The Court then discharged the grand jury and ordered those indicted to appear at the next session of the Surry Court [10].

23 Apr 1793 – Cooper was at Surry Court House for the countywide election. Either before or after he cast his votes, he went into the courthouse to witness the sale of a 50-acre tract of land from Edward and Elizabeth Marks to Moses Bishop. He signed the deed as witness [11]:



25 Sep 1795 – Constable John Cooper, Fred's uncle, signed his will, with Fred witnessing his uncle's signature. John Cooper died shortly afterward, and on October 27th, Frederick Cooper appeared before the Surry County Court the following to attest to his signature on the will [12].

22 May 1798 – Frederick Cooper served on a *"Jury of Grand Inquest"* for Surry County, along with his neighbors John Justiss, John Tillott, Hartwell Carsley, and Miles Burgess. Cooper and Tillott presented evidence to the jury regarding the poor condition of the road through the Archibald Cockes' Precinct. The Grand Jury filed a *"presentment"*—now known as an indictment—against the road surveyor *"for not keeping the road in lawful repair"* [13].

26 Jan 1800 – The Surry County Court ordered three of Frederick Cooper, John Tillott, Miles Burgess, or James Oney to appraise the estate of the late Michael Carsley, Cooper's neighbor and member of his kinship network. Carsley was the brother-in-law of Capt. David Sebrell, Cooper's friend [14].

27 Sep 1803 – The Surry County Court ordered any three of Frederick Cooper, John Velvin—husband of Fred's first cousin, Permelia Cooper,—John Justiss, or James Cheatham to appraise the estate of their neighbor, the late Edmund Carsley [15].

28 Jan 1804 – Frederick Cooper, John Velvin, and John Justiss went to the nearby home of the late Edmund Carsley, now headed by his widow, Alice Burgess Carsley. After being sworn by a justice, the three men *"Inventoried and appraised in current money"* Carsley's personal estate. Their original appraisement survives, showing the only known instance of Cooper signing his first name using an abbreviation [16]:



While at the Carsley residence, Fred Cooper performed another routine civic service: he witnessed a transaction between Alice and her brother, Miles Burgess. In his 1796 will, John Burgess left two enslaved men—Tom and *"Toney"*—to be equally divided among his three children—Alice, Miles, and Rebecca—after the death of Burgess's wife. Burgess also left the bulk of his estate, after certain bequests and the payment of his debts, to be divided among his three children.

On this day, Alice Carsley sold her interest in Tom and Toney and also her share of all other property from her father's estate to Miles Burgess for the sum of £20. Cooper and the other two appraisers, John Velvin and John Justiss, witnessed Alice's transaction [17].

Although Fred Cooper was not himself a slaveholder, this moment shows how his life intersected with slavery through his extended kin network. It also underscores how enslaved people were treated as inheritable property, their lives bound to the legal and economic framework of rural Virginia.

28 Feb 1804 – John Velvin appeared at Surry Court House before the court to file both the appraisement of Edmond Carsley's estate and the transaction between Alice Carsley and Miles Burgess with the Surry Court [18].

27 Aug 1805 – The Surry County Court ordered three of Frederick Cooper, his cousin, John Velvin, Miles Burgess, or John Justiss to appraise the estate of John Tillott [19].

24 Sep 1805 – The Surry Court appointed three of Frederick Cooper, Miles Burgess, Robert Booth, and John Velvin, the husband of Cooper's first cousin, Permelia Cooper, to appraise the personal estate of Cooper's neighbor, William Justiss [20].

29 Nov 1805 – A few days prior to his death, Frederick Cooper, together with John Velvin and Miles Burgess, met with Justice of the Peace Beverly Booth in preparation for appraising the estate of William Justiss. Booth administered the required oath to the three men, after which they proceeded to make an appraisement of Justiss' property. Their completed inventory valued his property at £168 13s 2d [21].

The surviving political records show Frederick Cooper fully involved in the election process of his day. While local elections for the Blackwater district were held at The New Design Tavern near

Cooper's farm, annual elections for representatives to both Virginia's General Assembly and the U.S. Congress were held at the county seat, Surry Court House. Cooper was a consistent voter and made the trek from his farm along the Blackwater to the county seat for the annual statewide elections, with the federal elections coinciding every other year.

Election days were community gatherings that drew citizens from across the county. The modern concept of a secret ballot only evolved in the twentieth century, with men at that time casting their votes by yelling it to the election clerk before the assembled crowd. As a result, the voter records show who Cooper backed, and he voted in alignment with his extended kinship network to support the same candidates. This creates a political portrait of the era, revealing a world shaped by localism and family alliances. Moreover, it illustrates the absence of ideological polarization in rural Virginia.

Together, these patterns reveal a political culture rooted in kinship, locality, and personal reputation rather than abstract ideological divisions:

28 Apr 1789 – In an election held on this day at the Surry County Courthouse, Frederick Cooper voted for John Allen Esq. and James Kee Esq. His relatives and friends voting for the same candidates included his future father-in-law, Thomas Dewell, his uncles, Benjamin Ellis and John Cooper, and neighbors Nathaniel Sebrell, Burwell Sharp, William Justiss [22].

24 Apr 1792 – In an election held on this day at the Surry County courthouse, Frederick Cooper and his father-in-law, Thomas Dewell, both cast their vote for William Boyce to serve as Surry County's representative to the Virginia General Assembly [23].

23 Apr 1793 – Frederick Cooper appeared at the courthouse to vote in the annual election for representatives to the Virginia General Assembly. Several of his relatives also voted that day, including his father-in-law, Thomas Dewell, Fred's uncle, Constable John Cooper, and two of his brothers-in-law, John Stiles Sr., who had married Cooper's sister, Jane, in 1788, and Henry Dewell, Betsy's brother. The Coopers and Thomas Dewell cast their votes to re-elect John Allen to another term in the General Assembly, while Fred Cooper, the Dewells, and John Stiles voted to elect Sheriff William Boyce as Surry's other representative to the General Assembly [24].

22 Apr 1794 – In an election held on this day at the Surry County courthouse, Frederick Cooper and his father-in-law, Thomas Dewell, both cast their vote for Sheriff William Boyce to represent Surry County in the Virginia General Assembly. Fred Cooper cast his vote for Nicholas Faulcon to serve as Surry's other representative [25].

28 Apr 1795 – In the annual election held at the courthouse in Surry County, Frederick Cooper, his uncle, John Cooper, and Henry Dewell, Fred's brother-in-law, all cast their votes in three

races. As usual, they voted as a block, supporting Robert Cocke for state senator, and William Boyce and James Belches Jr. for Surry's representatives to the Virginia General Assembly [26].

24 Apr 1798 – Although he did not vote in the 1796 election, Frederick Cooper appeared on this day at Surry Court House, the new town built at the place formerly known as Cross Roads, for the 1798 annual election. Also at the courthouse that day was Cooper's brother-in-law, John Stiles Sr. Both men cast their votes for Surry's representatives to the General Assembly for Nicholas Sebrell and Caufield Seward [27].

24 Apr 1799 –Frederick Cooper and his brother-in-law, Henry Dewell, appeared at Surry Court House to participate in the election held on this day, which included races for the Virginia General Assembly and the local representative to serve in the United States Congress. Both Cooper and Dewell voted for John Mason for U. S. representative and Nicholas Faulcon for state senator. They also both voted for William Allen and Nicholas Sebrell for Surry's representatives to the General Assembly [28].

28 Apr 1802 – He did not vote in the 1801 election, but on this day, Frederick Cooper appeared at Surry Court House to vote in the annual election. Several of his relatives also voted, including Henry Dewell, and Fred's nephews, William Rae Jr. and Edwin Rogers, husbands of the daughters of Cooper's sister, Emelia Cooper Collier. All four men cast their vote for William Allen as one of Surry's representatives in the General Assembly. Cooper, Rae, and Rogers voted for their neighbor, Nicholas Sebrell, for the other representative, while Henry Dewell cast his vote for Sampson Wilson. Sebrell won the election [29].

24 Apr 1804 – Although he did not vote in the 1803 election, Frederick Cooper appeared at Surry County Court House on this day to vote in the annual election for Surry's representatives to the Virginia General Assembly. He cast his votes for his neighbor, Nicholas Sebrell, and William Allen. Cooper's first cousin, John Velvin, voted for the same candidates [30].

In addition to his civic and political activities, Fred Cooper's economic exchanges such as payments, debts, and estate-related transactions occurred within his family network. They were not merely financial events, but part of the community obligations expected of reliable landholders. Thus, these economic rhythms were woven into the same social fabric as Cooper's civic duties. This reinforces the central argument that kinship-based civic labor permeated all aspects of Frederick Cooper's life.

These economic transactions reinforce Cooper's reliability and show how deeply he was embedded in community expectations. Moreover, they illustrate the blurred line between private economy and public duty:

1786 – Tax records for Surry between 1782 and 1805 show Frederick Cooper consistently paying both his property and land taxes each year except for 1786, when both he and his mother were omitted. On 22 July 1788, Surry Deputy Sheriff John Southall submitted a list of insolvents—those unable to pay their assessed taxes—and a list of *"Tax collected on concealed property"* for the year 1786 to the court. The list included Frederick Cooper, taxed for his own free male tithe, five cattle, two horses and five shillings in specie. Several of his relatives and neighbors were also on the list, including William Rae, Jesse Sheffield, and Thomas Bailey. Cooper paid his tax of fifteen shillings and 3 pence, and the others paid theirs as well.

Although the record identified Cooper and the others as *"Concealers"* of taxable property, nothing indicates any wrongdoing by them. It is likely that the sheriff had this document recorded to formally reconcile his accounts after irregular tax collection or an administrative error [31].

1 Apr 1788 – The estate of Cooper's first cousin, Isaac Ellis, paid Cooper £3 10s *"for one Cow and Calf"* that Cooper had sold them. A few weeks later, on April 21st, Ellis' administrator reported that he had *"Paid Frederick Cooper proven Account"* of 10 shillings [32].

24 May 1797 – Frederick Cooper paid a debt of 10 shillings, 4 pence that he owed to the estate of James Gilchrist [33].

These transactions show Cooper's involvement in the era's informal credit system and the expectation that neighbors and relatives would settle accounts honorably. This rural credit network structured all aspects of economic life along the Blackwater, revealing how it was governed by trust, reputation, and kinship rather than formal institutions.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

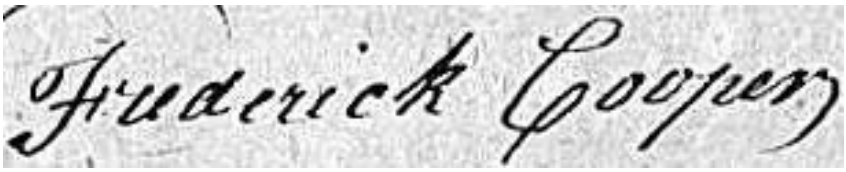
Premature Death

By early 1805, Frederick Cooper was likely between forty-five and fifty-five years old. The surviving records indicate he remained active through 1804, but by early 1805, concerns about his health apparently prompted him to make plans for his death. Cooper wrote his will on 22 April 1805, giving his property to his wife, Elizabeth, during her lifetime. He left his gun to his nephew, Leroy Stiles, son of his sister, Jane, and her husband, shoemaker and The New Design tavernkeeper, John Stiles Sr.

Frederick Cooper made this disposition of his property after his wife's death:

> *I give to my daughter Rebecca Cooper after the death of my wife all my est*[ate] *both real and personal and of what nature or kind soever which has not been herein before particularly disposed of to her and to her child or children forever if any, but in case she should die without a child I give the whole of my land and plantation to Leroy Stiles to him and his heirs forever.*

As the executors of his will, Fred Cooper appointed his wife, Elizabeth Cooper, and his *"friend David Sebrell,"* his neighbor and captain of the Surry County Militia. The original will survives among Surry County's loose probate papers, providing us with the last-known sample of his original signature [1]:



After writing his will in April 1805, Frederick Cooper remained in reasonably good health for the next seven months. On September 24th, the Surry Court appointed Frederick Cooper, Miles Burgess, Robert Booth, and John Velvin, the husband of Cooper's first cousin, Permelia Cooper, to appraise the personal estate of Cooper's neighbor, William Justiss [2]. On November 29th, Frederick Cooper, John Velvin, and Miles Burgess met with Justice of the Peace Beverly Booth, who administered the required oath of appraisers. The three then proceeded to make an appraisement of the property of William Justiss, which totaled £168 13s 2d.

On 24 June 1806, John Velvin and Miles Burgess appeared before the Surry County Court to submit their appraisement of the Justiss estate. Under oath, they reported to the Court:

> *Certify that Frederick Coopper* [sic] *acted with us & that a few days after & prior to the making & assigning this return h*[e] *Deceased.*

If we take the statement by Velvin and Burgess literally, this indicates that Frederick Cooper died the first few days of December 1805 [3].

Capt. David Sebrell filed Frederick Cooper's will with the Surry County Court on 28 January 1806, and Sebrell then took the required oath and posted $1000 bond to serve as the executor of Cooper's estate. Elizabeth Cooper chose to leave the executor duties to Sebrell, and so the Surry Court appointed him as Frederick's sole executor [4].

Following an order issued by the Surry County Court, appraisers John Justiss, Thomas G. Tillott, and John Velvin conducted an appraisal of Fred Cooper's estate on 4 March 1806, although they did not return it to the Court until 23 June 1807. Like his father, Cooper did not own slaves. His livestock included a black horse and a bay mare, ten cattle, seven sheep, eleven hogs, twelve geese, and four full and six empty beehives. He had 18 barrels of *"bread corn"* on hand at the time of his death, as well as 500 pounds of bacon, eight deer skins, and three *"raw Hides"* and *"a parcel of Leather."*

Cooper's household furniture included four feather beds and furniture, spinning wheels, *"A parcel of Carpenters tools," "A parcel of Shoe makers Tools,"* both a man's and a woman's saddle and bridle, plus farming, kitchen, and household utensils, and *"A parcel of old Books."* Taken together, these items portray a modest but self-sufficient yeoman household with diversified subsistence resources.

On 14 March 1806, Capt. David Sebrell held a sale of Frederick Cooper's personal estate. Surry County Representative and Court Justice Nicholas Sebrell, one of Cooper's neighbors, paid £21 for Cooper's black horse, the most valuable single item sold. Other purchasers included Cooper's widow, Elizabeth Cooper, who paid 5 shillings, 1 penny for two deer skins, his brothers-in-law, John Stiles Sr., who paid 5 pence for a gun hammer, and Henry Dewell, who paid 3 shillings for one *"howell"* and a pair of compasses. Cooper's nephew, John Collier, bought his canoe for 16 shillings, and another nephew, William Rae Jr., paid 6 shillings, 3 pence for a stack of *"Top Fodder."* The estate sale netted a total of £35 4s 8½p [5].

Frederick Cooper's widow, Elizabeth, lived on his 100-acre farm for the next sixteen years, paying the land taxes each year between 1806 and 1821 [6]. For the first five years after Fred's death, she maintained her household in her own name, paying property taxes on one horse and one enslaved person born about 1791 that she presumably inherited from her father or first husband [7].

With Frederick's estate settled, Elizabeth assumed control of the household and farm, and by 1810 the census captures the altered domestic world she inhabited as a widow. Her household included an unidentified young male under ten years of age and a female aged between sixteen

and twenty-six. The younger female was probably Frederick's daughter, Rebecca, then aged about sixteen years old [8].

Elizabeth ceased payment of property taxes in 1811, a probable indication that she moved in with relatives, probably one of her daughters. On 22 December 1812, Rebecca Cooper married John Stiles Jr., and they settled in southern Surry County near the Blackwater Swamp [9].

Fred Cooper's will stipulated that his wife, Elizabeth, would retain possession of his 100-acre farm until her death, after which the land's ownership would pass to his daughter. It is not clear if Elizabeth lived on his old farm after she ceased maintaining her own household in 1811. Becca and John Stiles bought a small tract of land that adjoined Cooper's farm, and they may have operated Cooper's farm during this period. Between 1811 and 1820, someone paid the land taxes on Fred's farm in Elizabeth Cooper's name [10].

By 1820, Elizabeth Cooper's health had declined, and she wrote her will on May 23rd. She left all of her property to her grandchildren. She requested that Capt. David Sebrell, the executor of Frederick Cooper's will, pay money towards her support to George C. Collier, her husband's nephew who she described as *"my friend."* Elizabeth lived another year, apparently dying in the early summer of 1821. On July 23rd, George C. Collier presented her will to the Surry County Court, but he *"refused to take upon himself the burthen of the Execution"* of her estate [11].

Since Collier had refused to serve as executor, on 22 October 1821, the Surry County Court ordered Sheriff Randolph Fitchett to administer *"the personal estate of Elizabeth Cooper decd."* On 25 February 1822, the Court ordered John Collier and Edwin Rogers, both husbands of Fred Cooper's nieces, to appraise Elizabeth's estate. They made their inventory on April 22nd, and her only property consisted of kitchen and household furniture valued at $44. Collier and Rogers did not return the inventory to the Court until 28 July 1823.

On 27 December 1824, the Surry Court appointed auditors to examine the accounts filed by Sheriff Fitchett for the Estate of Elizabeth Cooper. The Court finalized his accounting on 26 February 1827, showing a surplus of 2¢ after paying all debts of her estate. Among the debts of her estate was a $5.00 cash payment to Nicholas Dewell for making Elizabeth's coffin prior to her burial [12].

Elizabeth's long widowhood, marked by declining means and reliance on kin, reflects the precarious position that aging widows held in early-nineteenth-century Surry County.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

1798 Division of Thomas Dewell's Land Among his Heirs

Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 597–598

Articles and agreement made and entered into this twentieth day of January ADomini one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight between Henry Dewell of the one part and Frederick Cooper on the other part, both of the county of Surry. Witnesseth, that whereas Thomas Dewell deceased late of the said county by his particular request and desire made partition of that part of his land which he purchased of William Barnes, containing by estimation two hundred and twenty five acres by equal moities [sic–moieties] *to the said Henry Dewell and Elizabeth Cooper, which said land has since been laid off and divided by William Bailey and Benjamin Ellis, referees appointed by the parties but no conveyance made and recorded before the death of the said Elizabeth, so that her part of the said land has now become the property of Rebecca Cooper the only Child of her, the said Elizabeth, this writing, therefore is intended by the said Henry Dewell and Frederick Cooper on behalf of his daughter Rebecca (who is an infant of tender years) to establish the said line of partition between the said Henry Dewell and Rebecca Cooper forever, in fee simple, which said line begins at a red oak on Mack's line and runing* [sic] *through the Land by a line of marked trees to a Post oak on Henry Dewell's line, so the part lying south of the said line shall hereafter be the property of the said Rebecca Cooper to her and her heirs for ever and the remainder of the said land to Henry Dewell his heirs for ever* [sic], *and the said parties do further covenant and agree that should either the said Henry Dewell or the said Frederick Cooper, or the said Rebecca Cooper, or either of their heirs ever hereafter bring a suit to make this present writing null and void that then the party offending shall forfeit one thousand dollars current money of Virginia and if the said Rebecca Cooper or any other person for her, or her heirs, become the offenders herein, that then the said Frederick Cooper, his heirs, executors, and administrators shall be subjected to pay to the said Henry Dewell his heirs, executors and administrators the said penalty. In witness whereof the parties have set their hands and Seals the date above written.*

Henry Dewell
Frederick Cooper

Signed, sealed & delivered
in the presence of
Thomas Kee
James Milby
James Kee

At a Court held for Surry County, February 27th 1798.

The within written Agreement between Henry Dewell and Frederick Cooper was presented in Court and being proved by the oath of James Kee Gentleman, a witness thereto the same is ordered to be continued for farther [sic] *proof. And at a Court held for the said county the 26th day of June following, the same was farther* [sic] *proved by the oath of Thomas Kee, another witness thereto and by the Court ordered to be recorded.*

Teste,
Jacob Faulcon, C.S.C.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

1805 Will of Frederick Cooper

Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), p. 80

*I **Frederick Cooper** of Surry county do hereby make this my last will and testament in manner and form as followeth, that is to say –*

St. [First] *I desire that all the perishable part of my estate be sold as my executor and executrix may think proper as is hereafter named and out of the money arising therefrom pay all my just debts.*

*Secondly – I give unto my beloved wife **Elizabeth Cooper** the following property, to wit. One feather bed and furniture, four sleys and harness, one corner Cupboard, and flax wheel and hackle, one pair of Candlemolds, one candle stand, one Coffee pot, one teapot, two pewter dishes, three pewter basons* [basins], *five spoons, one half dozen knives and forks, two pair of cotton chards* [sic], *one pair of wool chards* [sic], *one earthen bowl, one earthen bason* [sic], *two leather bottom chairs and one red Cow which belonged to her when I married her, to dispose* [of] *she thinks proper.*

Thirdly – I lend to my beloved wife the remainder of my estate or however so much thereof as she and my executor may deem necessary during her natural life.

*Fourthly. I give to **Leroy Stiles** my gun to him and his heirs forever.*

*Fifthly. I give to my daughter **Rebecca Cooper** after the death of my wife all my est* [estate] *both real and personal and of what nature or kind* [what] *soever which has not been herein before particularly disposed of to her and to her childs* [sic] *or children forever if any, but in case she should die without a child I give the whole of my land and plantation to **Leroy Stiles** to him and his heirs forever.*

*And lastly. I do hereby constitute and appoint my friend **David Sebrell** executor and my wife **Elizabeth Cooper** executrix of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all other or former wills or testaments by me herebefore made.*

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this twenty second day of April in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & five.

[signed] ***Frederick Cooper***

Signed, sealed, published and declared as
And for the last will and testament of the above
Named Frederick Cooper in presence of us

John Velvin
Edwin Rogers
Robert Ellis

At a court held for Surry county January the 28th 1806.

The within written testament and last will of ***Frederick Cooper*** *deceased being presented in court by* ***David Sebrell*** *the executor therein named and proved by the oaths of* ***Edwin Rogers*** *and* ***Robert Ellis*** *witnesses thereto was by the court ordered to be recorded. And on the motion of the said* ***David Sebrell*** *who made oath and gave bond with* ***Robert Ellis*** *his security in the sum of one thousand dollars conditioned as the Law directs certificate is granted him for obtaining a probat*[e] *thereof in due form and liberty is reserved the executrix to qualify at a future day.*

John Faulcon*, C.S.C.*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Note:

The first two men who served as witnesses to Frederick Cooper's will, John Velvin and Edwin Rogers, were close relatives. In 1800, John Velvin married Frederick Cooper's first cousin, Permelia, daughter of Fred's uncle, John Cooper. At the time he witnessed the will, Edwin Rogers was only a neighbor, but in 1817, he married Frederick's niece, Lucy Collier, daughter of his sister, Emelia Cooper Collier. Robert Ellis is also probably a relative of Mary Ellis Cooper, Frederick's mother.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

1806 Inventory of the Estate of Frederick Cooper

Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 183–185

Inventory and Appraisement of the Estate of ***Frederick Cooper*** *deceased made this 4th day of March 1806.*

1 black horse *21. 0. 0*
1 Bay Mare *20. 0. 0*
1 red Cow and Cow yearling *4.10. 0*
1 black and White Cow *3. 0. 0*
1 red and white ditto [cow] *2.14. 0*
2 ditto [red and white] *Heifers* *3.18. 0*
2 small Steers ..... *2.14….*
7 Sheep at 9/each ..... *3. 3…*
1 white sow and 7 pigs ..... *2. 8…*
2 young sows and 1 barrow ..... *2. 5…*
A parcel Bread Corn supposed to be 18 Barrels *10.16. 0*
1 Feather Bed and furniture ..... *12.*
1 ditto…..and ditto ..... *11.*
1 ditto…..and ditto ..... *10.*
1 ditto…..and ditto ..... *9.*
8 Deer Skins ..... *2. 8.*
3 raw Hides at 10/ a parcel of Leather *1.14. 6*
Ditto of Pease by the bushel 4/ *1. 4. 0*
Ditto of seed Cotton @ 3½ *1. 9. 2*
2 flax wheels 18/ 1 Gun 6/ ..... *1. 4.*
1 broad Axe Adze and Howell ..... *.10.6*
1 Steel plate hand Saw ..... *. 9.*
A parcel of Carpenters tools consisting of Planes, drawing Knives, Augers, &c. *1. 6. 9*
1 Cow Bell and Coller ..... *. 3. 9*
2 Reap hooks and 1 Sword ..... *. 3.*
1 flax hackle and clove ..... *. 6.*
1 old Gum of Lumber ..... *. 2. 3*
A parcel of Shoe makers Tools ..... *. 6.*
A pair of Warping bars and Boxes ..... *. 7. 6*
4 old Chest 6/ 1 Painted ditto [chest] *6/* ..... *.12.*
2 Runletts and Cold barrels ..... *. 6.*
1 Wire Sive 3/ 1 Womans Saddle & Bridle 3/ ..... *. 6.*
1 Mans Saddle & Bridle *1. 4. 0*
5 Slaes and 4 Harnesses *1. 4. 0*
3 pair Cotton Cards ..... *. 5. 4½*
3 ditto Well Ditto ..... *. 4. 6*

1 Harness Lomb & Reel ..... *. 2. 3*
2 Sarces and 2 Sives ..... *. 2. 3*
2 Meal Bags ..... *. 6.*
4 Baskets and a parcel of Nails ..... *. 4. 1½*
3 Chest 1 Case and nine Bottles *1.14. 6*
1 Sheet Counterpane and 3 Table Cloths ..... *2. 2.*
2 Small Trunks 4/6 1 Gunn £2 ..... *2. 4. 6*
1 safe 3/ 2 Tables 4/6 & 9 Sitting Chairs 13/6 ..... *2. 8.*
1 Spinning Wheel 7/6 2 small Looking Glasses 2/3 ..... *. 9. 9*
6 Jugs 16/ 5 Butter Pots 13/6 ..... *1. 9. 6*
8 Quart Bottles 3/6 small ditto [bottles] *9d* ..... *. 3. 9*
1 Small Pitcher and mug ..... *. 1. 6*
2 Candle Sticks & Snuffers ..... *. 2. 3*
1 Coffee Pott 1/6 1 drag & 4 Gunlets & pair Spurs 1/6½ ..... *. 3. ½*
1 pair Sheep Sheers and 1 pair Cloth ditto [sheers] ..... *. 1. 6*
1 ditto [pair] *Candle Moulds & 4 Brushes* ..... *. 2. 3*
1 ditto [pair] *Flat Irons & 1 Box ditto with heaters* ..... *. 5. 3*
Tongs Shovel bread hoe & Trivet ..... *. 3. 9*
1 Skillet & fire Irons 2 Razor Straps and hone ..... *. 9. 9*
2 Shrovels 1/6 Morter Pestle & Logger head 1/6 ..... *. 3. 0*
5 powder guards 2 powder horns & 4 Shot bags together with Powder and Shott [sic] ..... *. 7. 6*
A parcel of old Books ..... *. 6.*
..... *£147.16.8½*

Amount brought forward *147.16.8½*
A pint Pott and funnel 1/6 2 half pint measures 1/ ..... *. 2. 6*
1 Cox trumpery 3/ 1 deer skin drest [sic] *1/6* ..... *. 4. 6*
4 hives Bees 48/ 6 empty hives 4/6 ..... *2.12. 6*
A parcel of Oats in the Staw 6/ 1 Lomb 24/ ..... *1.10.*
1 Spinning Wheel ..... *. 1. 6*
1 pan 3 potts 3 pair hooks & dutch oven ..... *1. 4.*
2 Pott racks and pan handle ..... *. 4.*
4 plow hoes and 1 Cutler ..... *.16. 6*
2 Grubbing hoes 3 hilling ditto & 2 weeding Ditto ..... *.13. 9*
1 Spade and hatchet ..... *. 1. 6*
A parcel of Plowing and Carting harness ..... *. 7.*
3 Tubs and water pale [sic] *4/ 1 Peach Stand 2/3* ..... *. 6. 3*
1 plough hoe & Cutler 7/6 1 grind Stone 6/ ..... *.13. 6*
2 Carts and 1 Pair Wheels ..... *1. 1.*
3 Axes & 1 Iron Wedges ..... *.16. 6*
1 Flax brake 3/ hand mill 15/ ..... *.18.*

400 feet feather edge Plank at 6/ ..... *1. 4.*
1 froe 1/6 10 Cider Barrels 15/ ..... *.16. 6*
1 Wheel Barrow 2/3 3 old Barrels 1/6 ..... *. 3. 9*
A parcel Bacon supposed to be 500lb at 50/ .....*12.10.*
14 Pewter Spoons 5/ 10 ditto Basons 23/ ..... *1. 8.*
5 ditto [pewter] *Dishes 26/ 13 ditto* [pewter] *Plates 12/* ..... *1.18.*
2 Earthen Dishes and 7 plates ..... *. 4. 6*
3 Bread boles [sic] *4/6 a parcel of Tallow supposed to be 20lb 15/0* ..... *.19. 6*
A Parcel of Walnut timber 10/6 Milk piggin pale & hog gin 3/ ..... *.13. 6*
9 Cups 12 Saucers ½dozen tea Spoons Sugar dish 2 tea potts [sic] *Mug & Tumbler* ..... *.12.0*
12 Geese 27/ 1 Top Stack & 2 blade ditto 20/ ..... *2. 7.*
1 blade Stack Top ditto [stack] *and Shocks* ..... *.16. 6*
A parcel Flax 3/ 14 Knives & 15 forks 7/6 ..... *.10. 6*
..... *£183.13.5½*

David Sebrell

Agreeably to an order of the Worshippful Court of Surry to us directed we the undersigned have appraised the estate of Frederick Cooper deceased in current money. Given under our hands the day and year aforesaid.

John Justiss
Thos. G. Tillott
John Velvin

At a court held for Surry County June the 23rd 1807.
The within written Inventory and Appraisement of the Estate of Frederick Cooper deced. being returned into court was by the Court ordered to be recorded.

Teste, ***John Faulcon****, C.S.C.*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

1806 Frederick Cooper Estate Sale

Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 193–194

An account of Sales of the Estate of ***Frederick Cooper*** *deceased*
March 14th 1806 -

2 Chizels and 2 Gouges	*Michael Maddera*	*" 2 " 6*
1 Howel, 1 pair Compasses	*Henry Dewell*	*" 3 "*
1 Adze	*Thomas G. Tillot*	*" 5 " 1*
1 Drawing Knife	*Michael Maddera*	*" 2 –*
1 broad Axe	*Lemuel C. Sledge*	*" 6 –*
1 hand frow	*James Milby*	*" 1 " 6*
2 Gimblets, 1 Auger	*Ditto Ditto*	*" 1 " 3*
2 Gages, 16 Mallet & 1 fore Plane	*Thomas G. Tillott*	*" 5 " 1*
1 Logger head hammer & 1 p^{r} spurs	*James Cheatham*	*" " 9*
2 Deer skins	*Lemuel C. Sledge*	*" 12 " 1*
2 Ditto Ditto	*Henry J. Howard*	*" 15 " 6*
2 Ditto Ditto	*Ditto Ditto*	*" 8 –*
2 Ditto Ditto	*Mrs Eliza Cooper*	*" 5 " 1*
1 raw Hide	*James Cheatham*	*" 12 –*
1 Ditto Ditto	*Henry J. Howard*	*" 10 –*
1 box Lumber	*Henry Jordan*	*" " 9*
1 She hammer & punchers	*Henry Sheffield*	*" 3 "*
7 Pieces Walnut Plank	*Nathan Jones*	*" 6 " 4½*
1 Plumb & Saw Wrest	*Henry Jordan*	*" 1 " 2½*
1 Gun Hammer	*John Stiles Senr*	*" " 5*
2 Rasors [sic] *& 2 Straps*	*Hermon Bishop*	*" 2 " 4*
1 Hoan	*John Blassingham*	*" 3 " 3*
1 pair Shoe Brushes	*Henry J. Howard*	*" " 6*
1 red and White Cow	*Thomas Bishop son Thomas*	*2 " 4 " 7*
1 Ditto heifer	*Lemuel C. Sledge*	*1 " 8 " 6*
1 Ditto Steer	*Henry J. Howard*	*1 " 1 " 7*
To amount brought forward		*10 " 2 " 4*
1 black Horse	*Nicholas Sebrell*	*21 " – "*
1 Mans Saddle	*Thomas Bishop Son Thos.*	*" 16 " 7*
32 Peas, 3/9 p bus [3/9 per bushel]	*Thomas G. Tillot*	*" 13 " 1½*
1 bushel ditto	*Henry J. Howard*	*" 4 " –*
1 ditto Cow Ditto [1 bushel cow peas]	*Thomas G. Tillot*	*" 3 " 6½*
3 Ditto Oats at 3/7 p bus	*Edmund Wood*	*" 10 " 9*
1 Stack Top Fodder	*William Rae*	*" 6 " 3*
1 Ditto blade Ditto	*John Burgess*	*" 11 " –*

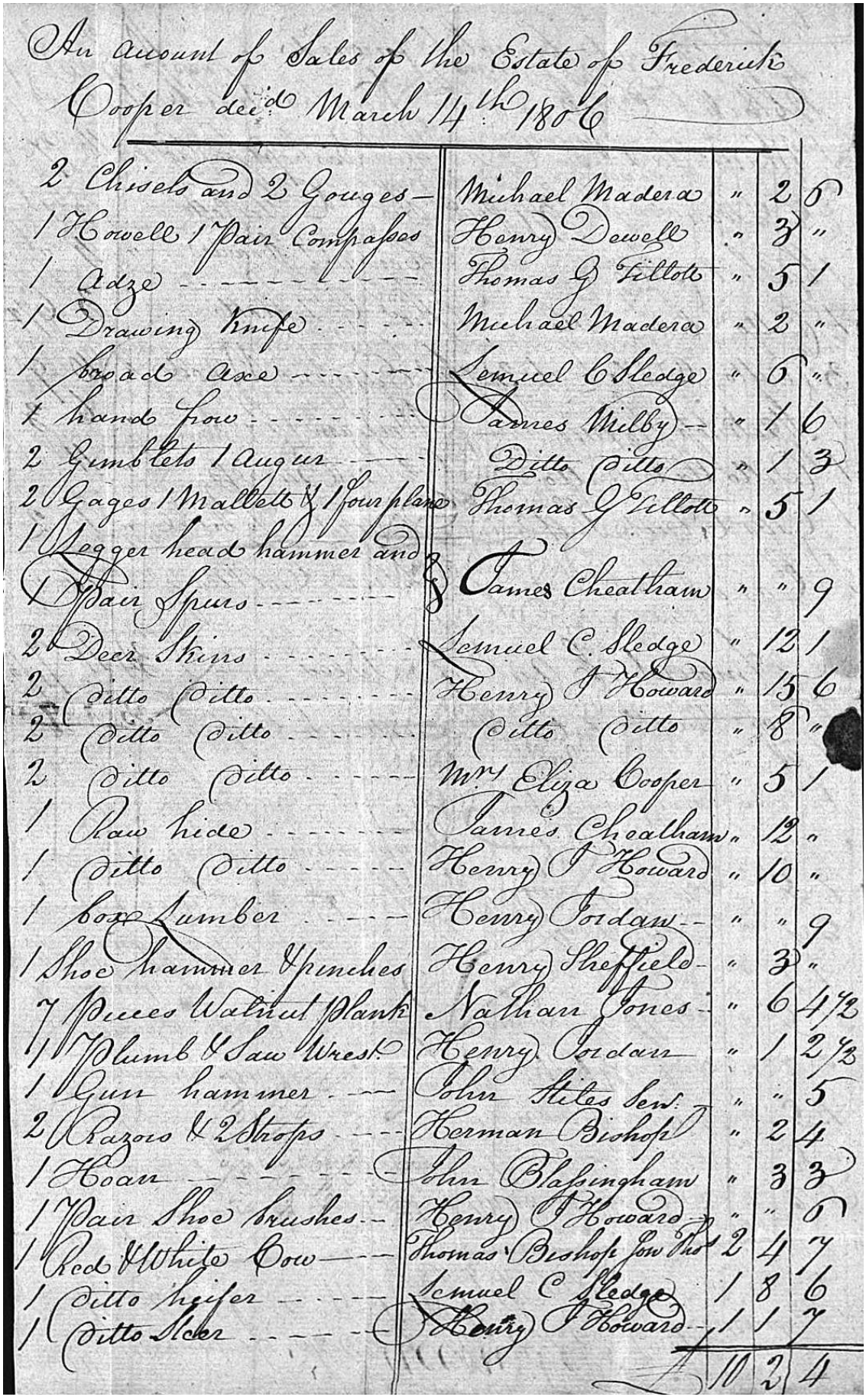
1 Goard Buck Shot.....David Sebrell.....“ 1 “ 2
1 Canoe.....John Collier .....“ 16 “ –

Amount of acct. of Sales of the estate of Frederick Cooper deced. ..... £34 “ 11 “ 7
[unspecified amount] *13 “ 1½*
35 “ 4 “ 8½

David Sebrell

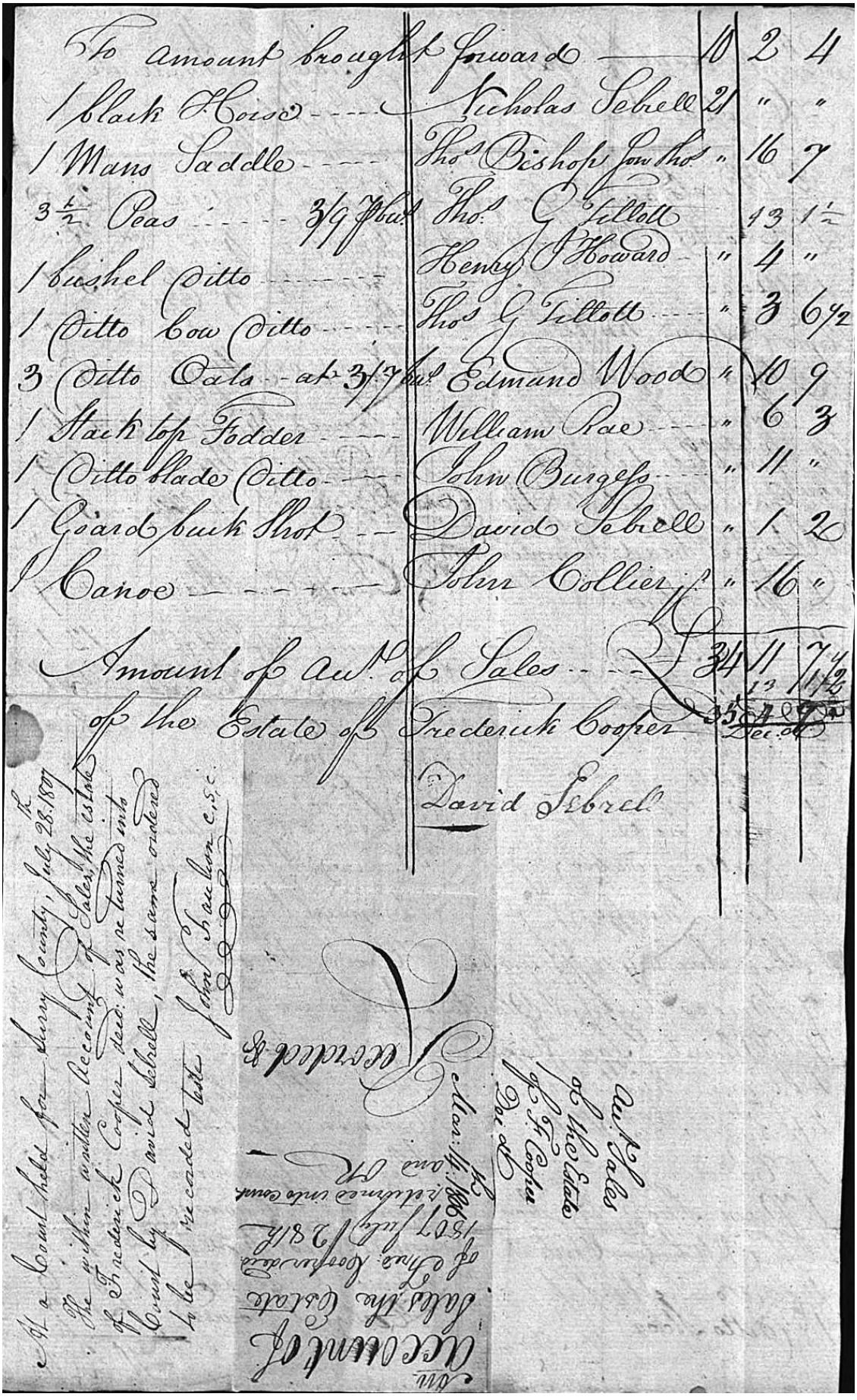
At a court held for Surry County, July 28 th 1807.
The within written Account of Sales, the estate of Frederick Cooper deceased was returned unto Court by David Sebrell, the same ordered to be recorded.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



An Account of Sales of the Estate of Frederick Cooper dec'd March 14th 1806

2 Chisels and 2 Gouges	Michael Madera	"	2	0
1 Howell 1 pair Compasses	Henry Dewell	"	3	"
1 Adze	Thomas G Tillott	"	5	1
1 Drawing Knife	Michael Madera	"	2	"
1 broad Axe	Samuel C Sledge	"	6	"
1 hand Saw	James Wilby	"	1	6
2 Gimblets 1 Augur	Ditto Ditto	"	1	3
2 Gages 1 Mallett & 1 Jour plane	Thomas G Tillott	"	5	1
1 Legger head hammer and 1 Pair Spurs	James Cheatham	"	"	9
2 Deer Skins	Samuel C. Sledge	"	12	1
2 Ditto Ditto	Henry J Howard	"	15	6
2 Ditto Ditto	Ditto Ditto	"	8	"
2 Ditto Ditto	Mrs Eliza Cooper	"	5	1
1 Raw hide	James Cheatham	"	12	"
1 Ditto Ditto	Henry J Howard	"	10	"
1 box Lumber	Henry Jordan	"	"	9
1 Shoe hammer & pinches	Henry Sheffield	"	3	"
7 Pieces Walnut Plank	Nathan Jones	"	6	4½
1 Plumb & Saw Wrest	Henry Jordan	"	1	2½
1 Gun hammer	John Stites Sen.	"	"	5
2 Razors & 2 Strops	Herman Bishop	"	2	4
1 Hoan	John Blasingham	"	3	3
1 Pair Shoe brushes	Henry J Howard	"	"	6
1 Red & White Cow	Thomas Bishop Son Tho	2	4	7
1 Ditto heifer	Samuel C Sledge	1	8	6
1 Ditto Steer	Henry J Howard	1	1	7
		10	2	4



To amount brought forward		10	2	4
1 black Horse	Nicholas Sebrell	21	"	"
1 Mans Saddle	Thos Bishop Jon Thos	"	16	7
3½ Peas 3/9 ⅌ bu.	Thos G Tillott		13	1½
1 bushel ditto	Henry J Howard	"	4	"
1 ditto Cow ditto	Thos G Tillott	"	3	6½
3 ditto Oats at 3/7 bu.	Edmund Wood	"	10	9
1 Stack top Fodder	William Rae	"	6	3
1 ditto blade ditto	John Burgess	"	11	"
1 Goard buck Shot	David Sebrell	"	1	2
1 Canoe	John Collier jr	"	16	"
Amount of Aut. of Sales		£ 34	11	7½
			13	1½
of the Estate of Frederick Cooper		35	4	9

Dec.d

David Sebrell

At a Court held for Surry County, July 28th 1807
The within written Account of Sales, the estate
of Frederick Cooper deed: was returned into
Court by David Sebrell, the same ordered
to be recorded teste John Faulkon c.s.c.

Recorded &c

Aut. Sales
of the Estate
of F. Cooper
Dec.d

Mar: 14th 1806
returned into Court
and OR

An Account of
Sales the Estate
of Fred: Cooper deed
1807 July 28th

1820 Will of Elizabeth Cooper

Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 3 (1815–1821), p. 512

*I **Elizabeth Cooper** do hereby make my last will and Testament in manner and form as following, that is to say:*

First I desire that my funeral expences [sic] *be paid out of the sales of my property which I shall hereinafter direct to be sold.*

*2dly I give to my grand daughter **Betsey Boles** my only trunk and silver thimble.*

3ly I desire that my clothes may be divided agreeable to a memorandum left in possession of my Executor hereinafter named.

*4thly I desire that all the residue of my property may be sold on such credit as my Executor may think best and the proceeds thereof together with such sum or sums of money as may now, or may hereafter be due me shall be equally divided betwixt my five grand sons **James Jordan**, **Jesse Jordan**, **Frederick Jordan**, **Henry Jordan** and **Henry W. Boles** to them & their heirs forever.*

*5thly I desire that the Executor of my husband **Frederick Cooper** shall in compliance with his Will pay to **George C. Collier** a reasonable sum for my support from the first of November last.*

*And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my friend **George C. Collier** Executor of this my last will and testament hereby revoking all other or former Wills by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand & Seal this 23^{d} day of May in the year 1820.*

Elizabeth Cooper [her mark]

Witness
John Velvin
Jesse Stewart [his mark]

At a Court held for Surry County, July 23^{d} 1821 –

*The within written last Will and Testament of **Elizabeth Coopper*** [sic] *deceased was presented in Court by **George C. Collier** the Executor therein named, who refused to take upon himself the burthen of the Execution of the same. The said Will was proved by the Oaths of **John Velvin** and **Jesse Stewart** the Witnesses thereto, and by the Court ordered to be recorded.*

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

The charts below give transcriptions of Surry County, Virginia personal property tax records for Frederick Cooper and his closest relatives, including his sister and brother-in-law, Emelia and John Collier, and sister and brother-in-law, Jane and John Stiles Sr., father-in-law, Thomas Dewell, and brother-in-law, Henry Dewell.

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	White Males Above 21 years	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Cattle	Tax
			Aged over 16 Years	Aged under 16 Years			
1782	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	1	3	£0 12s 9d
	Mary Cooper	--	--	--	1	2	£0 2s 6d
	Jane Cooper	--	--	--	1	--	£0 2s 0d
	Thomas Dewell	1	--	--	3	6	17s 6d
	John Collier	1	3	4	2	8	£4 6s
1783	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	1	4	£0 13s 0d
	Mary Cooper	--	--	--	1	--	£0 2s 0d
	Thomas Dewell	1	--	--	3	4	£0 17s 0d
	John Collier	1	4	3	2	8	£4 6s 0d
1784	Frederick Cooper	1	--	1	1	5	£1 3s 3d
	John Collier	1	5	4	2	7	£5 5s 9d
	Thomas Dewell	2	--	--	4	3	£1 8s 9d
	John Stiles	1	--	1	--	--	£1 0s 0d
1785	John Collier	1	5	5	2	7	--
	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	6	--
	Mary Cooper	--	--	--	1	--	
	Thomas Dewell						
	John Stiles	1	--	1	--	--	--
1786	John Collier	1	5	5	2	7	--
	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	1	--	--
	Thomas Dewell	1	--	--	2	3	--
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	--	--
	Frederick Cooper, and his mother, Mary, were missed from this assessment.						
1787	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	5	£0 15s 3d
	John Collier	1	5	7	1	13	£6 15s 3d
	Mary Cooper	--	--	--	1	2	£0 2s 6d
	Thomas Dewell	1	--	--	1	5	£0 13s 3d

	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	1	2	£1 2s 6d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--	£0 10s 0d

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	White Males Tithes	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Tax
			Aged over 16 Years	Aged 12–16 Years		
1788	Mary Cooper	0	--	--	1	£0 2s
	John Collier	1	5	--	3	£2 16s
	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 4s
	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	1	£0 12s
	Thomas Dewell	1	--	--	1	£0 2s
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
1789	Mary Cooper	-	--	--	1	£0 2s
	John Collier	1	3	1	2	£2 4s
	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	3	£0 6s
	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	1	£0 12s
	Thomas Dewell	1	--	--	1	£0 2s
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
1790	John Collier	1	3	1	2	£2 4s
	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 4s
	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	1	£0 12s
	Thomas Dewell	1	--	--	1	£0 2s
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
1791	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 4s
	"Emilia Collier"	0	2	--	2	£1 4s
	Henry *"Duel"*	1	1	--	1	£0 12s
	Thomas *"Duel"*	1	--	--	1	£0 2s
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
1792	Frederick Cooper	2	--	--	2	£0 4s
		Other white male tythe: Henry Jordan				
	"Emilia Collier"	1	3	--	1	£1 12s
		"(Son Benjamin Collier)"				
	Thomas *"Duel"*	1	--	--	1	£0 2s
	Henry *"Duel"*	1	1	--	1	£0 12s
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	White Males Tithes	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Tax
			Aged over 16 Years	Aged 12–16 Years		
1793	Frederick Cooper	2	--	--	2	£0 0s 8d
		Other white male tythe: Henry Jordan				
	"Emilia Collier, Benjamin Collier"	1	3	0	1	£0 5s 4d
	Thomas Dewell	1	--	--	1	£0 0s 4d
	Henry Dewell	1	--	--	1	£0 0s 4d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
1794	*"Fredrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	£0 0s 8d
	"Emelia Collier, Benjamin Collier"	1	2	--	1	£0 3s 8d
	"Henry Dewel"	1	1	--	2	£0 2s 4d
	"Thomas Dewel"	1	--	--	1	£0 0s 4d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--

Year	Taxpayer	Free Tithes above 16 Years	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Tax
			Aged over 16 Years	Aged 12–16 Years		
1795	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 0s 8d
	"Emelia Collier Son Benjamin Collier"	1	1	--	2	£0 2s 4d
	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	2	£0 2s 4d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
1796	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	3	£0 1s 0d
	Emelia Collier	1	1	--	2	£0 2s 4d
	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	3	£0 2s 8d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--
1797	Frederick Cooper	1	--	--	2	£0 2s 4d
	Emelia Collier	0	2	--	2	£0 4s 0d
	Benjamin Collier	1	--	--	--	--
	Henry Dewell *"(in Gloster County)"*	0	1	--	1	£0 2s 0d
	John Styles	1	--	--	--	--

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	Free Tithes above 16 Years	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Tax
			Aged over 16 Years	Aged 12–16 Years		
1798	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	1	--	2	53¢
	"Amelia Collier"	0	2	--	2	88¢
	Benjamin Collier	1	--	--	--	--
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	--
	Henry Dewell is not found listed; his slave, Cherry, was listed with Fred Cooper.					
1799	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	24¢
	"Amelia Collier"	1	2	--	--	$1.12
		Free male Tithes: John Collier				
	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	2	68¢
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	$12.50
		1 Ordinary License				
1800	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	24¢
	"Amelia Collier"	1	1	--	2	68¢
		Free male Tithes: *"Jn° Collier"*				
	Benjamin Collier	1	1	1	1	$1.--
	Henry Dewell	1	1	--	2	68¢
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	$12.50
		1 Ordinary License				
1801	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	24¢
	Emelia Collier	1	1	--	2	68¢
		Free male Tithes: John Collier				
	Benjamin Collier	1	1	--	1	56¢
	Henry Dewell	1	2	--	2	$1.12
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	--
1802	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	--	--	2	21¢
	Emelia Collier	1	1	--	2	68¢
		Free male Tithes: John Collier				
	Benjamin Collier	1	--	--	1	12¢
	Henry Dewell	1	2	--	1	$1.--
	John Stiles	1	--	--	--	--

Surry County, Virginia Personal Property Tax Records

Year	Taxpayer	Free Male Tithes	Slaves		Horses, Mares, Colts, and Mules	Tax
			Aged over 16 Yrs	Aged over 12 Yrs		
1803	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	1	--	2	68¢
		"Blacks above 16: Cresia"				
	Emelia Collier	1	1	1	3	$1.24
		Free Male Tithes: George Collier				
	Benjamin Collier	1	--	--	1	12¢
	Henry Dewell	1	2	--	2	$1.12
	John Stiles	2	--	--	--	$12.50
		1 Ordinary License Free male tithes: *"J. Stiles; Jn° Stiles Jr."*				
1804	*"Fedrick Cooper"*	1	1	--	3	80¢
	Emelia Collier	0	1	1	2	$1.12
	"John Collier (son of Milly)"	1	--	--	--	--
	Henry Dewell	1	2	--	2	$1.12
	John Stiles	2	--	--	--	$12.50
		1 Ordinary License Free male tithes: *"John Stiles; John Stiles Jr."*				
1805	Frederick Cooper	1	1	1	2	68¢
	Emelia Collier	0	1	3	2	$1.56
	"John Collier son of Emelia"	1	--	--	--	--
	Henry Dewell	1	2	3	3	$1.68
	John Stiles Sen.	2	--	--	--	--
		1 Ordinary License				
1806	Elizabeth Cooper	0	0	1	1	--
	Emelia Collier	0	2	3	2	--
	"John Collier son of Emelia"	1	--	--	--	--
	"The Estate of Fred Cooper"	0	--	--	1	---
	Henry Dewell	1	1	2	3	--
	John Stiles	1	--	--	1	--

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Notes

Introduction

1. For a more in-depth discussion of the distinct agrarian culture of southern Surry County, Virginia along the Blackwater Swamp, see the first few chapters of the article The New Design.
2. Hunter, Brooke. "Wheat, War, and the American Economy during the Age of Revolution." *William and Mary Quarterly,* 3rd ser., vol. 62, 2005, pp. 505–526. Siener, Willilam H. "Charles Yates, the Grain Trade, and Economic Development in Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1750–1810." *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography,"* vol. 93, 1985, pp. 409–426. Although Virginia exported corn and wheat during this period, cotton had not yet become an exported commodity in the United States, and even when it did, cotton was primarily associated with the Deep South.
3. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815):
   - p. 80: Will of Frederick Cooper, dated 22 April 1805, filed in court 28 January 1806
   - pp. 183–185: Inventory of the Frederick Cooper Estate, made 4 March 1806, filed 23 June 1807
   - pp. 193–194: Estate Sale of Frederick Cooper, held 14 March 1806, filed in court 28 July 1807

   Statements about Cooper's farm produce and livestock come from his inventory and estate sale. At his death in 1805, he had 500 pounds of bacon valued at £12 10s, 18 barrels of *"Bread Corn"* valued at £10 16s, ten beehives valued at £2 12s 6d, a *"parcel flax,"* and many bushels of peas. He owned eight cured deer skins and three *"raw Hides,"* all of which his executor disposed of at Cooper's estate sale. He owned a *"parcel of leather,"* and in his will, he left his wife *"two leather bottom chairs."* He owned several guns at his death, with one valued at £2. This is presumably the gun he left in his will to his nephew, Leroy Stiles. He owned 3½ pounds of seed cotton valued at £1 9s 2d, indicating that he grew cotton.

Ancestry

1. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 5, Part 2 (1694–1709), p. 228: William Hunt to James Cooper, both of Southwark Parish, Surry County, 3 November 1701; Surry County VA Orders (1691–1713), LDS Film #8153306, Image #196: date: 4 November 1701; #197: *"William Hunt appearing in Court and acknowledging a deed of sale of a parcel of land to James Cooper."* Smith, Annie Laurie Wright. *The Quit Rents of Virginia, 1704.* Genealogical Publishing Co.: Baltimore, MD., 1980, p. 21.
2. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 8, Part 1 (1730–1738), pp. 425–426: Will of James Cooper, written 28 February 1729/30, filed in court 20 November 1734.
3. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 7, Part 2 (1715–1730), pp. 588–589: Gregory and Hannah Rawlings lease and release to William Cooper, 15–16 September 1724; 489 acres adjoining lands of Richard Shockey. The estimate for William's birth comes from assuming he was at least eighteen years of age when he purchased his land in September 1724. William left 130 acres of the tract to his son, George, who left it to his son, Frederick, who left 100 acres of the land to his daughter, Rebecca Cooper Stiles. Although she migrated from the region in 1824, the land remained in possession and cultivation by George Cooper's grandchildren, Emelia Cooper Rogers and Benjamin Collier, until the 1880s, when it was purchased by the estate of Jonathan Muson Williamson Cooper (c1823–1884), the great-grandson of William Cooper's brother, John (1709/10–1768).
4. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10 (1754–1768), pp. 215–216: Will of William Cooper, written 4 April 1756, filed in court 26 November 1759.
5. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 229–230: Will of George Cooper, dated 14 October [1781], filed in court 26 March 1782. In his 1781 will, George Cooper named his wife, *"Mary Cooper,"* and then made this bequest to his son: *"I give and bequeath to my son Frederick Cooper all the remainder of my Estate and what was lent to my Wife at her discease* [decease]*…maintaining my Daughter Agnes Cooper during her life."*
6. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10 (1754–1768), p. 285: Will of Caleb Ellis, written 10 August 1760, filed in court 17 May 1762. In the 1762 will of Caleb Ellis, he named Mary Cooper as one of his children, along with Richard Ellis, *"Dann Ellis,"* Stephen Ellis, and Amelia Shell. He named his spouse as *"my Loving Wife Amelia Ellis."*
7. Surry County VA Deed Book 8 (1760–1769):
   pp. 217–219: Heirs of *"Richard Shock"* [Shockey] to Richard Ellis, 5 May 1764;
   pp. 219–220: Memorandum of agreement between heirs of *"Richard Shock"* [Shockey], including Mildred, wife of Caleb Ellis, 10 February 1764.

   These two records identify *"Mildred"* as the daughter of Richard Shockey, stating that she *"intermarried with Caleb Ellis,"* who had already died, leaving Richard Ellis as their heir. In that era, the given names *"Mildred"* and *"Amelia"* were interchangeable, and as both were used in the surviving records, it is unclear which, if either, was her actual given name.

8. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 9 (1738–1754), pp. 35–36: Will of *"Alce"* Shockey, written 17 February 1735/36, filed in court 21 March 1738. In her 1736 will, the widowed Alice Shockey divided her *"wareing cloths"* among her four daughters, including *"Meley Ellis."*
9. MacDonald, Edgar and Richard Slatten. *Surry County [Virginia] Tithables, 1668–1703.* Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2007, pp. 92, 96. McCrary, Dixie L. *The Ellis Line From Surry–Sussex in Virginia.* Privately printed, 1978, pp. 30–31 (LDS Film #1321141, Item #8).
10. Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt. *Virginia's Colonial Soldiers.* Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1998, pp. 215, 220–222. The militia list comes from the Public Records Office in London, C.O.5/1312.
11. Virginia Patents No. 11 (1710–1719), p. 350: Patent to Robert Webb of Surry County, 175 acres in Southwark Parish adjoining lands of Richard Washington and *"Richard Shocks land,"* 22 January 1717.
12. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 8, Part 1 (1730–1738), pp. 138–140: Inventory of the Estate of Richard Shockey, filed by Alice Shockey, Administrator, 20 October 1731.
13. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 7, Part 2 (1715–1730), pp. 588–589: Gregory and Hannah Rawlings lease and release to William Cooper, 15–16 September 1724; 489 acres adjoining lands of Richard Shockey and Richard Washington.
14. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 7, Part 1 (1715–1730), pp. 993–995: Caleb Ellis and his wife, *"Emelia,"* lease and release to Benjamin Reeks, 15–16 December 1729. Caleb Ellis sold a 110-acre tract of land *"it being a Parsell* [sic] *or Tract of Land Purchased by the said Caleb Elis of his father Jeremiah Elis."*
15. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 5, Part 1 (1694–1709), p. 34: Jeremiah Ellis Sr. to Edward Ellis, 2 March 1694/95. Jeremiah Ellis Sr. sold his son, Edward Ellis, a 170-acre tract of land on the Johnchecohunk Swamp,
    "…beginning at the Mouth of the branch that runneth betwixt the sd. Edwd & his Brother Jeremiah their plantations & so up ye branch…"
    This proves that Jeremiah Ellis Jr. was the son of Jeremiah Ellis Sr.
16. "Extracts From the Records of Surry County." *William and Mary College Quarterly,* Series I, Vol. XI, 1902, p. 81 (Militia in 1687), p. 84 (Jeremiah Ellis Jr.), p. 85 (Jeremiah Ellis Sr.).
17. Bockstruck, pp. 215, 220–221.
18. Surry County VA Deeds, Wills, Etc. Book 2, (1671–1684), p. 131: Deposition of *"Jeremiah Ellis aged 34 yrs or there abouts,"* 4 July 1677. Boddie, John B. *Colonial Surry.* Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1974, 126. McCrary, pp. 6–7.
19. Surry County VA Order Book (1671–1691), Part 1, p. 373; LDS Film #8153305, Image #291: Jeremiah Ellis appointed *"SubSheriff for the County having taken the Oaths,"* 2 May 1682. McCrary, p. 7.
20. Virginia Patents Books 1 & 2 (1623–1643), pp. 356–357: Virginia to Nathan Martin, 500 acres in Henrico County called *"the great field,"* 31 May 1636; transportation of Nathan Martin, Edward Ellis, and six others.
21. McCrary, pp. 1–9, 25–31 (LDS Film #1321141, Item #8). Sheek, Ann Ellis. *History of Twelve Generations of the Ellis Family: 1636 to 1974.* Privately printed, 1974, pp. 5–7, 10–11 (LDS Film #7941119, Images #486–519). These works give references showing that Jeremiah Ellis Sr. was the only known son of Edward Ellis, the immigrant.

Surry County Farmer

1. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783):
    pp. 227–228: Frederick Cooper to John Tillott, 26 March 1782
    pp. 228–230: Will of George Cooper, dated 14 October [1781], filed in court 26 March 1782
    Frederick must have passed twenty-one by the time he filed his father's will with the Surry County Court and qualified as his executor on 26 March 1782. If just twenty-one or twenty-two, his birth occurred about 1760. He could have been born earlier in the 1750s, although if so, he maintained a low profile. This deed and his father's will are the earliest known records left by Frederick Cooper.
2. Compiled Military Service Record, Michael Casely (private), 4th Virginia Regiment (Revolutionary War). Virginia State Library:
    - Revolutionary War Bounty Warrants, reels 1–29, voucher 1783, Henry Duel, 12 April 1783.
    - Land Office military Certificates, Reel 11, Frames #374–376, Certificate #346, Henry Duel, 12 April 1783.

    Michael Carsley (often spelled *"Casely"*) married Elizabeth, the sister of Capt. David Sebrell, a neighbor who Cooper identified as *"my friend"* in his 1805 will. Henry Dewell was the brother of Elizabeth Dewell, the woman Cooper married in 1791. Both Carsley and Dewell lived near Cooper in southern Surry County.
3. Lukezic, Craig. "Soils and Settlement Location in 18th Century Colonial Tidewater Virginia." *Historical Archaeology,* vol. 24, 1990, p. 4.
4. Hening, William Waller, ed. *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature, in the Year 1619.* Richmond, VA: Samuel Pleasants, 1814, Vol. IV, p. 241 (*"At a General Assembly, Begun and Held at Williamsburg,"* 1 February 1727, and continued until 21 May 1730); p. 247 (*"An Act for amending the Staple of Tobacco; and for preventing Frauds in his Majesty's Customs"*); p. 266 (*"That a public warehouse or*

warehouses shall be kept, and the same are hereby appointed to be kept at the following places…At Cabbin [sic] *Point, in Surry;…At Gray's Creek, in Surry, where the Agents houses were"*).

5. Lukezic, p. 3. Walsh, Lorena S. "Plantation Management in the Chesapeake, 1620–1820." *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 49, 1989, pp. 394, 396–397.
6. Gill, Harold B. Jr. "Wheat Culture in Colonial Virginia." *Agricultural History,* vol. 52, 1978, p. 381.
7. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815):
   p. 80: Will of Frederick Cooper, dated 22 April 1805, filed in court 28 January 1806
   pp. 183–185: Inventory of the Frederick Cooper Estate, made 4 March 1806, filed 23 June 1807
   pp. 193–194: Estate Sale of Frederick Cooper, held 14 March 1806, filed in court 28 July 1807
   Cooper left his wife *"cotton chards"* [sic] in his will, and his inventory included 3½ pounds of seed cotton valued at £1 9s 2d.
8. Walsh, p. 397.
9. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 228–230: Will of George Cooper, dated 14 October [1781], filed in court 26 March 1782.
10. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 227–228; Surry County VA Indentures (1699–1796), LDS Film#4123079, Images #657–658: Frederick Cooper to John Tillott, 26 March 1782. The original document was filmed by the LDS in the *"Indentures,"* and this is the identical document recorded in Deed Book 11. The original document contains a 1782 sample of Cooper's original signature.
11. *"Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States in the Year 1790: Records of the State Enumerations: 1782 to 1785, Virginia."* Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1908, pp. 43, 78. Surry County VA Census of Persons and Buildings (1772–1785), LDS Film #4131664:
    Image #24: *"A List of Whites and Blacks taken by Lemuel Cocke & Nathan Jones October 6th 1782;"* column #1: *"Frederick Cooper,"* 4 whites, 0 blacks;
    Image #34: *"A List of white Persons and Buildings in Johnchocohunk Precinct in Surry County, taken by James Kee, 1784…Fred. Cooper;"* 4 white people, 1 dwelling house, *"Smoke House, 1 Dairy."*
12. These Surry County deeds identify the owners of the land that adjoined Frederick Cooper's farm:
    Deed Book 7 (1753–1760), pp. 354–355: John Justiss Sr. to John Justiss Jr., 1757; filed in Surry Court 15 August 1757; witness: Richard Ellis. The elder Justiss gave his son a 75-acre tract of land on the south side of John Justiss' plantation adjoining the lines of Richard Ellis and William Cooper.
    Wills, Etc. Book 10a (1768–1779), pp. 401–402: Will of John Justiss, written 11 April 1774, filed in Court 25 April 1775; witness: George Cooper. Justiss made this disposition of his lands: *"I give unto my Son Wm Justiss the Plantation whereon I now live as far as the new Road."*
    Wills, Deeds, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 227–228: Frederick Cooper to John Tillott, 26 March 1782. Cooper sold a 24½-acre portion of the land left to him by his father that adjoined the lands of John Tillott and William Justiss.
    Deed Book 12 (1783–1787), pp. 45–47: Thomas and Mary Howard to William Blunt of Sussex County, 8 June 1784. The Howards sold 554 acres on the south side of *"Washington's Mill branch,"* on *"Birchen Island Road"* [Birch Island], on the lines of Thomas Washington, Nathaniel Sebrell, John Tillott, George Cooper, Jesse Sheffield.
    Deed Book 13 (1788–1792), pp. 182–184: John and Elizabeth Justiss to John Watkins Jr., 22 January 1788. The Justiss' sold a 45-acre tract on the lines of Jesse Sheffield, Frederick Cooper, and William Justiss.
    Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 116–118: William and Frances Blunt and Samuel and Elizabeth Blunt to Nathan Jones, 24 June 1793. The Blunts sold a 721-acre tract on *"Washingtons Mill swamp," "Birchen Island Road,"* Ellis' Branch, and *"Washington's Old Mild* [sic] *Pond,"* and on the lines of Capt. John Watkins, John Tillott, *"Casleys"* [Carsley], Frederick Cooper, Jesse Sheffield.
13. Surry County VA Order Book (1775–1785), pp. 438, 441–442: Michael Carsley appointed Road Surveyor of Raleigh Precinct, 26 July 1785. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1799, LDS Film #4129144, Images #56–57: William Rae to Emelia Collier, 19 December 1799.

Family Life

1. The earliest-known Surry County document referencing Frederick Cooper is his father's will, apparently written in October 1781. He must have passed twenty-one by the time he filed his father's will with the Surry County Court and qualified as his executor on 26 March 1782. Surry County marriages are sporadic during the 1770s and early 1780s. For example, there is no record of the marriage of Fred's sister Emelia Cooper to John Collier. If his birth occurred in the mid-1750s, Fred Cooper may well have married in the 1770s or 1780s.
2. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1791, LDS Film #4129783, Images # 8–9: Frederick Cooper to Betsy Dewell, 11 February 1791; Thomas Dewell, security. Surry County VA Marriage Returns (1785–1854), LDS Film #4131988, Image #16, p. 3: Frederick Cooper to Betsy Dewell, 24 February 1791.

3. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 10 (1754–1768):
   pp. 221–222: Will of Henry Barnes Sr., written 16 April 1759, filed in court 15 April 1760
   pp. 330–331: Account of Estate of Henry Barnes, filed 19 July 1763
4. Surry County VA Wills, Deeds, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 12–13: William Barnes to Thomas Dewell, 19 November 1777.
5. *"Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States in the Year 1790: Records of the State Enumerations: 1782 to 1785, Virginia."* Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1908, pp. 43, 78. Surry County VA Census of Persons and Buildings (1772–1785), LDS Film #4131664, Images:
   #22: *"List Souls in Capt. Lucas's District 1782, Surry County:"*
   #11: *"Thomas Dewell,"* 6 whites, 0 blacks;
   #34: *"A List of white Persons and Buildings in Johnchocohunk Precinct in Surry County, taken by James Kee, 1784…Tho. Dewell;"* 4 white people, 1 dwelling house, *"Smoke House."*
6. Surry County VA Land Tax and Personal Property Tax Records, 1782–1794. Throughout this period, Thomas Dewell paid taxes on his 325-acre farm.
7. 1794 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, p. 4, #1: Frederick Cooper, 100 acres, tax: £0 2s 1d; p. 5, #2: Thomas Dewell, 325 acres; tax: £0 3s 7d. 1794 Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Book, Cabin Point District, *"Fredrick Cooper"* one *"Free Tyth,"* two horses, tax: 8 pence; Thomas Dewell, one *"Free Tyth,"* one horse, tax: 4 pence.
8. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 296–297: Sampson and Scella Walden to Matthew Banks, 21 February 1795; witnesses: Thomas Bailey, Sampson Grantham, Thomas Dewell.
9. 1795 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, p. 4, #1: Frederick Cooper, 100 acres; tax: £0 2s 1d; 112½ acres; tax: £0 1s 3d; p. 5, #25: Henry Dewell, 112½ acres; tax: £0 2s 4d. This shows that in early 1795, before the Surry County Clerk prepared the land tax assessments, Thomas Dewell died and Frederick Cooper and Henry Dewell divided his lands equally. At the end of the 1795 Land Tax Book, under the heading, *"Alienations and Alterations of Landed Property in Surry County for the Year 1795,"* are these entries:

   "Frederick Cooper To Thomas Dewell Dec[d]"
   acres: 112½
   rate of land per acre: 4/5
   value of land: £24 18s 11d
   tax: £0 1s 3d

   "Henry Dewell To Thomas Dewell Dec[d]"
   acres: 112½
   rate of land per acre: 4/5
   value of land: £46 16s 6d
   tax: £0 2s 4d

10. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 597–598: Frederick Cooper and Henry Dewell, boundary agreement, 20 January 1798.
11. Surry County VA Processioners Returns (1796–1828), pp. 45–46; LDS Film #8191627, Image #37.
12. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1798, LDS Film #4129143, Images #10–11: Frederick Cooper to Sarah Rogers, 20 July 1798. Surry County VA Marriage Returns (1785–1854), p. 12: Frederick Cooper to Sarah Rogers, 1798. James Warren stated to county clerk Jacob Faulcon that he married Frederick Cooper and Sarah Rogers in the year 1798.
13. Sussex County VA Marriage Register (1754–1853), LDS Film #7979169, Images:
    #275, p. 95: Marriage Bonds: Archibald W. Bowles to Rowany Barker, 5 December 1799; Elizabeth Barker, mother; Frederick Cooper, security; *"Frederic"* [sic] Cooper to Elizabeth Barker, 5 December 1799; security: Archibald W. Bowles
    #461, p. 274: Marriage date: 12 December 1799: *"Fredric"* [sic] Cooper to Elizabeth Barker; Archibald W. *"Boles"* [sic] to Rowany Barker.
    Surry County VA Wills, Deeds, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 222–223: Will of Thomas Barker, 28 September 1781, filed in court on 26 March 1782. The marriage register identifies Rowany Barker as the daughter of Elizabeth Barker.

Local Activities

1. Surry County VA Will Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 203–205: Will of Anthony Adkins, written 3 July 1781, filed in court 28 August 1781.
2. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), p. 300: *"The Estate of Anthony Atkins in account with William Thompson, Administrator,"* filed 23 October 1798. The account has various debts, all of which were less than £2.
3. Surry County VA Will Book 12 (1783–1792), p. 158: Will of Isaac Ellis, 12 June 1787, filed in court 25 September 1787; witnesses: William Ellis, Nathl. Sebrell, Frederick Cooper.
4. Surry County VA Will Book 12 (1783–1792), pp. 179–180: Inventory of Isaac Ellis's Estate, made 25 October 1787, filed in court on 26 February 1788.
5. Surry County VA Order Book (1786–1789), p. 300: *"A Jury of grand Inquest for the body of this County being impanneled* [sic] *the Court appointed…their foreman…then the rest of the Jury, to wit, William Justiss, Richard Blunt, John Tillott, Frederick Cooer, Burwell Sharp, Edward Bailey, John Collier,…,Jesse Warren,…,* 27 November 1787.

6. Surry County VA Will Book 12 (1783–1792), pp. 206–207; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Inventories, Vol. 2 (1770–1873), LDS Film #4125015, Images #702–703: Will of John Cheatham, written 30 March 1788, filed in court 27 January 1789; witnesses: James Kee, Frederick Cooper, Archer Moody.
7. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1791, LDS Film #4129783, Image #36: Benjamin Ellis to Sarah Jones, 4 May 1791; Frederick Cooper, security.
8. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1798, LDS Film #4129143, Images #10–11: Frederick Cooper to Sarah Rogers, 20 July 1798; security: Benjamin Ellis.
9. Surry County VA Order Book (1789–1794):
    p. 299: Court session 25 October 1791
    p. 300: *"Ordered that Michael Caseley* [Carsley]*, Edmund Carsley, Frederick Cooper and John Cooper or any three of them begin first sworn before a Justice of the Peace for this county do appraise in amount* [of] *money the Slaves, if any and personal Estate of Thomas Burgess deceased and return an account of the same to the next court."*
10. Surry County VA Order Book (1789–1794):
    p. 433: Court session 27 August 1793
    p. 434: *"A Jury of Grand Inquest for the body of this County being impannelled* [sic]*…and then the rest of the Jurors were also sworn, to wit…Frederick Cooper, William Rae,…"*

    The latter was William Rae Sr., whose son, William Rae Jr., would marry Cooper's niece, Emelia Collier, in 1799.
11. Surry County VA Deed Book 1 (1792–1799), pp. 91–92: Edward and Elizabeth Marks to Moses Bishop, 23 April 1793; witnesses: Frederick Cooper, William Johnson, Stephen Sorsby. Surry County VA Indentures (1699–1796), LDS Film#4123079, Images #364–365. The original document was filmed by the LDS in the *"Indentures,"* and this is the original document recorded in Deed Book 1. The original document was signed by all three of the witnesses.
12. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 125–126: Will of John Cooper, written 25 September 1795, filed in court 27 October 1795; witnesses: John Justiss, Frederick Cooper, Joseph Ellis.
13. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800), p. 241: *"A Jury of Grand Inquest for this county being impannelled* [sic]*…then the rest of the following, namely…Frederick Cooper, John Justiss,…,John Tillott,…Miles Burgess…,"* 22 May 1798.
14. Surry County VA Order Book (1795–1800):
    p. 462: Court session 26 January 1800
    p. 463: *"Ordered that James Oney, John Tillott, Frederick Cooper, and Miles Burgess or any three of them begin first sworn before a Justice of this County do appraise in Current money the slaves if any and personal estate of Michael Caseley* [Carsley] *dec^{d} and return their appraisement to this Court"*
15. Surry County VA Order Book (1801–1804):
    p. 552: Court session 27 September 1803
    p. 455: *"Ordered that John Velvin, John Justiss, Frederick Cooper, and James Cheatham or any three of them begin first sworn before some Justice of the Peace for this County do appraise in current money the personal estate of Edmund Carseley* [Carsley] *deceased and that they return an account of the appraisement to the next Court"*
16. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 690–691; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Accounts (1770–1873), LDS Film #4124979, Images #2422–2423: Inventory of Edmond Carsley Estate, made 28 January 1804; filed in court on 28 February 1804; appraisers: John Velvin, John Justiss, Frederick Cooper. In his will dated 4 October 1802, Edmond Carsley named his wife as *"Ailce Carsley."* See Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 666–667.
17. Surry County VA Deed Book 2 (1799–1804), p. 515: Alice Carseley sells Miles Burgess all her interest in *"two negroes by the names of tom and Toney as well as every other kind of property which was lent by the last will and testament of my father John Burgess deceased to his widow Mary Burgess during her widowhood and then to be equally divided among his children…,"* 28 January 1804; witnesses: John Velvin, John Justiss, Frederick Cooper.
18. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 690–691; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Accounts (1770–1873), LDS Film #4124979, Images #2422–2423: Edmond Carsley Inventory, made 28 January 1804; filed in court 28 February 1804. Surry County VA Deed Book 2 (1799–1804), p. 515: Alice Carseley to Miles Burgess, 28 January 1804; filed in court 28 February 1804.
19. Surry County VA Order Book (1804–1807):
    p. 243: Court session 27 August 1805
    p. 247: *"Ordered that Miles Burgess, Frederick Cooper, John Justiss, and John Velvin or any three of them being first sworn before some Justice of the Peace for this County do appraise in current money the personal estate of John Tillott deceased, and that they return an account of the appraisement to the next court."*
20. Surry County VA Order Book (1804–1807):
    p. 273: Court session of 24 September 1805

p. 274: *"Ordered that John Velvin, Robert Booth, Frederick Cooper, and Miles Burgess or any three of them being first sworn as the law directs do appraise in current month the personal estate of William Justiss deceased and that they return an account of the appraisement to this court at the next term."*

21. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 104–105; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Inventories (1770–1825), LDS Film #4124947, Images #610–611: Estate Appraisement of William Justiss, made 29 November 1805, filed with Surry County Court 24 June 1806; appraisers: Frederick Cooper, John Velvin, Miles Burgess.
22. 1789 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131894, Images:
    #17: *"Pole held for John Allen Esq;"* the third voter on this page was Thomas Dewell
    #18: *"Federick Cooper"* [sic], *"Nathaniel Sebrell," "William Justice," "Benjamin Ellis,"*
    #20: *"Fred^{k} Cooper," "John Cooper," "Nathl Sebrell," "Wm Justice," "Benjn Ellis," "Burwell Sharp"*
    #21: *"Pole held for James Kee Esq"*
23. 1792 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131898, Image #12: *"A Poll taken April 24 1792 for William Boyce," "Thos Duell," "Frederick Cooper."*
24. 1793 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131899, Images:
    #9: *"Frederick Cooper"*
    #10: *"John Cooper"*
    #11: *"A Pole taken for Jno Allen at an Election held at Surry Court House April 23rd 1793," "Thomas Dewell"*
    #12: *"Frederick Cowper"* [sic]
    #15: *"A poll taken for William Boyce at an election for members to serve in the General Assembly at Surry Court House the 23 day of April 1793," "Thomas Dewell"*
    #21: *"Jno Stiles," "Henry Dewel"*

    Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1788, LDS Film #4129138, Images #28–29: John Stiles to Jane Cooper, 22 July 1788. In elections during this era, men cast their vote publicly, as secret ballots did not become standard until later. The county appointed a clerk to record the list of those voting for each candidate. The clerk for William Boyce recorded Fred Cooper's name as it was commonly enunciated in local Virginia dialect: *"Frederick Cowper."*
25. 1794 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131900, Images:
    #4: *"Thos Duell"*
    #5: *"A Poll taken for William Boyce, at Surry Court House 22 April 1794," "Fred Cooper"*
    #6: *"Fred^{k} Cowper"* [sic]
    #7: *"A poll taken for Nicholas Faulcon at Surry Court house April 22^{d}: 1794, Agreeable to an act for electing members to the Genl Assembly."*
26. 1795 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131901, Images:
    #6: *"Henry Dewell," "Frederick Cooper"*
    #7: *"A Pole taken for Mr James Belches J^{r} a Candidate for the house of representatives April 28 th 1795," "John Cooper"*
    #8: *"A Pole taken for Mr Robert Cocke a Candidate for the Senate this 28th day of April 1795"*
    #9: *"Henry Dewell"*
    #10: *"John Cooper"*
    #11: *"Federick Cooper"*
    #20: *"A Pole taken for Maj^{r} William Boyce a Candidate for the House of Representatives, Ap^{l} 28 1795"*
    #21: *"John Cowper"* [sic], *"Federick Cooper"*
    #23: *"Henry Dewell"*
27. 1796 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131903: Frederick Cooper not listed as voting. 1798 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131905, Images:
    #4: *"A poll taken for Mr Nicholas Sebrell for the County of Surry April 24th 1798," "Frederick Cowper," "John Stiles"*
    #14: *"A Poll taken for Mr Caufield Seward, for the County of Surry, April the 24 th. 1798"*
    #16: *"Fred Cooper"*
    #17: *"John Stiles"*
28. 1799 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131906, Images:
    #2: *"A poll taken this 24th April 1799 for William Allen for this state Assembly"*
    #4: *"Frederick Cooper," "Henry Dewell"*
    #5: *"A Poll taken for John Mason this 24th Ap^{l} 1799 as a Candidate for the ensuing Congress," "Frederic Cooper," "Henry Dewell"*
    #11: *"Surry. A Poll, taken for Nich^{s} Faulcon, this 24 April 1799 as a Senator in this State Legislature"*
    #12: *"Federick Cowper"* [sic], *"Henry Dewel"*
    #15: *"…Poll taken for Nich^{s} Sebrell, this 24 April 1799 for this State Assembly," "Fred. Cowper"* [sic]
    #20: *"Henry Dewel"*

29. 1801 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131908: Frederick Cooper not listed as voting. 1802 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131909, Images:
    #4: *"A poll taken for Nicholas Sebrell a candidate to represent the County of Surry in the next Genl Assembly of Virginia, April 28th 1802"*
    #5: *"Frederick Cooper, Edwin Rogers"*
    #6: *"Willm Rae"*
    #7: *"A Poll taken for William Allen a candidate to represent the county of Surry at the next Genl Assembly of Virginia, April 28 1802," "Henry Dewell"*
    #8: *"Frederick Cooper," "Edwin Rogers"*
    #10: *"Will. Rae;" "A poll taken for Sampson Wilson a candidate to represent the county of Surry in the next Genl Assembly of Virginia," "Henry Dewell"*
    William Rae Jr. had married Fred's niece, Emelia Collier, in December 1799. Edwin Rogers was not technically Fred's nephew, but merely his neighbor. Years later, in 1817 long after Fred Cooper's death, Rogers married Lucy Collier, daughter of Fred's sister, Emelia Cooper Collier. See Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1799, LDS Film #4129144, Image #56: William Rae to Emelia Collier, 19 December 1799; Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1817, LDS Film #4129182, Image #65: Edwin Rogers to Lucy Collier, 24 November 1817; security: John Collier.
30. 1803 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131910: Frederick Cooper not listed as voting. 1804 Surry County VA Voter Election Results, LDS Film #4131911, Images
    #12: *"A Poll taken for Nicholas Sebrell esquire a candidate to represent the county of Surry in the next General Assembly of Virginia, this 24th day of April 1804"*
    #13: *"Fred Cooper," "John Velvin"*
    #16: *"A Poll taken for William Allen esquire a candidate to represent the county of Surry in the next General Assembly of Virginia, this 24th day of April 1804"*
    #17: *"Federick Cooper," "John Velvin"*
31. Surry County VA Deed Book 13 (1788–1792):
    p. 41: *"1786. By Taxes collected for property concealed as follows…,"* Names included Frederick Cooper, William Rae, Jesse Sheffield, Thomas Bailey, Joseph Ellis, John Moring, etc.
    p. 42: *"At a Court held for Surry County July the 22nd 1788. The afore written Account of Insolvents and Tax collected on concealed property in the Revenue Tax and Certificate Tax for the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty six was presented…"*
32. Surry County VA Will Book 12 (1783–1792), p. 266: Account of Isaac Ellis Estate, filed by William Nicholson, Executor.
33. Surry County VA Will Book 1 (1792–1804), pp. 425–430; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories, & Estate Inventories #3 (1770–1873), LDS Film #4125045, Images #38–41: *"Account Current James Gilchrist Est, Thomas Peter Executor, returned Audited 25 Feby 1800."* Cooper's debt is on p. 429 in the recorded book and on Image #40.

Premature Death

1. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), p. 80; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Accounts (1770–1873), LDS Film #4124979, Images #1000–1001: Will of Frederick Cooper, dated 22 April 1805, filed in court 28 January 1806.
2. Surry County VA Order Book (1804–1807):
    p. 273: Court session 24 September 1805
    p. 274: *"Ordered that John Velvin, Robert Booth, Frederick Cooper, and Miles Burgess or any three of them being first sworn as the law directs do appraise in current month the personal estate of William Justiss deceased and that they return an account of the appraisement to this court at the next term"*
    William Justiss owned a 113-acre tract of land that adjoined Frederick Cooper's. See Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 11 (1778–1783), pp. 227–228; Surry County VA Indentures (1699–1796), LDS Film#4123079, Images #657–658: Frederick Cooper to John Tillott, 26 March 1782; 1802 Surry County VA Land Tax Book, LDS Film #4121823, Image #14: William Justiss.
3. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), pp. 104–105; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Inventories (1770–1825), LDS Film #4124947, Images #610–611: Estate Appraisement of William Justiss, made 29 November 1805, filed with Surry County Court 24 June 1806; appraisers: Frederick Cooper, John Velvin, Miles Burgess.
4. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804–1815), p. 80; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Accounts (1770–1873), LDS Film #4124979, Image #1001: Will of Frederick Cooper, dated 22 April 1805, filed in court 28 January 1806. Surry County VA Executors Bonds (1798–1816), p. 68: Bond of David Sebrell as executor of Frederick Cooper, 28 January 1806; security: Robert Ellis.

5. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804-1815), pp. 183–185; Surry County VA Wills, Inventories & Estate Inventories (1770–1825), LDS Film #4124947, Images #916–917: Inventory of Estate of Frederick Cooper, made 4 March 1806, filed 23 June 1807. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 2 (1804-1815), pp. 193–194: Estate Sale of Frederick Cooper, held 14 March 1806, filed in court 28 July 1807.
6. Surry County VA Land Tax Books, 1806–1821. Beginning in 1814, the land tax books show that Elizabeth Cooper owned the land *"for life,"* indicating the provisions of Frederick Cooper's will. That term signifies that she did not have the legal right to sell the land, just to retain possession of it until her death.
7. Surry County VA Personal Property Tax Books, 1806–1807, 1809–1821. Elizabeth Cooper paid property taxes through 1810, but she did not pay them beginning in 1811. The slave on which Elizabeth paid taxes was either hired or belonged to Elizabeth herself. The records show that Fred did not own slaves.
8. 1810 Surry County VA Federal Census, p. 603, line #26: Elizabeth Cooper
9. Surry County VA Marriage Bonds, 1812, LDS Film #4129172, Images #4–5: John Stiles to Rebecca Cooper, 22 December 1812.
10. 1811–1820 Surry County VA Land Tax Books. In each year, land taxes were paid on Elizabeth Cooper's 100 acres that she owned *"for life."*
11. Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 3 (1815–1821), p. 512: Will of Elizabeth Cooper, written 23 May 1820, filed in court 23 July 1821.
12. Surry County VA Order Book (1820–1822):
    p. 258: Court session 22 October 1821
    p. 262: Randolph Fitchett appointed Administrator of Elizabeth Cooper
    p. 295: Court session 25 February 1822
    p. 302: Robert C. Maynard, Edwin Rogers, John Collier *"do appraise in current money the personal effects of Elizabeth Cooper dec^{d}"*

    Order Book (1823–1825):
    p. 113: Court session 28 July 1823
    p. 116: Elizabeth Cooper Inventory recorded
    p. 398: Court session 27 December 1824
    p. 400: Randolph Frichett, *"do lay his Accounts currant and vouchers of said Estates,"* including the *"Estates of Eliza Cooper deceased"*

    Surry County VA Wills, Etc. Book 4 (1822–1827):
    pp. 168–169: Inventory of Estate of Elizabeth Cooper, made 6 April 1822, filed in court 28 July 1823
    pp. 608–609: Account of Estate of Elizabeth Cooper, 23 October 1826

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