



James Henry Hinote and Annie Mae Cooper

### **ANNIE MAE COOPER**

**May 3, 1889 - Jul. 2, 1954**

Annie Mae Cooper was born in Santa Rosa Co. on May 3, 1889, the daughter of John Robinson Cooper and Dorah Bloodworth.

James Henry (Jim) Hinote was born in Santa Rosa Co. on December 23, 1884, the son of Allen Hinote and Sallie Barnes.

Annie and Jim were married July 6, 1903. Jim was learning the meat cutter (butcher) trade from Charley Deen of Pace. Charlie and Lou Deen raised Annie and her two brothers, Jack and Floyd. Her parents had died in a flu epidemic in the 1890's when she was only 4 years old.. It is possible that Jim and Annie met after he began working for Charlie Deen.

Jim had a very hot temper and one day he had an argument with Charlie and threatened to kill him with a meat cleaver. Charlie calmed him down but Jim had worn out his welcome and had to look for another job. Jim and Annie moved to Bagdad, Fl. where he gained employment close by.

Annie told that shortly after their marriage she was wakened one night by someone playing with her toes. In those days doors and windows were left open to keep the house cool so anyone could just walk in. She was scared to death and pretended she was asleep and the next morning she told Jim about it. He passed it off as a vivid dream but it continued to happen two or three times a week. Finally she convinced him. He told her to wake him next time it happened and he put his shotgun next to the bed. A few nights later she woke him and he saw the figure of a man standing at the foot of the bed. He jumped up and grabbed for his gun but it wasn't where he put it. The man ran away. Jim found that the man had moved his gun and put it behind the door. He started sleeping with it under the covers. A few weeks went by and Annie woke him again. He jumped up and the man ran out the house and jumped the fence. Jim shot and the man cried "Oh Lordy, I'm shot" but he kept running. Next morning they found blood on the road and the man's shoes were on the porch under a rocking chair. He had removed them before entering

the house so as not to make noise. They asked around and went to the sheriff but no one in the community was found to be shot. It was never known who the visitor was and why he wanted to play with Annie's toes but the visits stopped. Jim and Annie moved to Pensacola to the Ensley area and lived there for many years. Jim worked as a butcher and at times as a night watchman. In the 1940's they moved to the Brentwood area and lived there until their deaths. For awhile Jim worked as a bridge tender for the L&N railroad on the Escambia Bay trestle. Since he loved to fish it was an ideal job for him.

Jim always had a big garden. He had a green thumb and was able to make anything grow. Many of the neighbors were happy about that as he was always willing to share any excess.

Annie had some peculiarities that were probably due to her being an orphan and her upbringing. She could not ride in a wagon as it made her sick. She had to walk everywhere she went. Later in life she was able to ride in a car without becoming sick.

Another was that when anyone got hurt she would laugh. The more serious it was, the harder she would laugh. Jim would get mad at her because when he would get hurt and she would try to doctor him she would get to laughing so hard that she would have to sit down and he would have to do the best he could. One time he got something in his eye and she was trying to put some eyedrops in it. She got to laughing and poked the eyedropper in his eye and almost blinded him. Most of the kids would doctor each other rather than tell their mother that they were hurt.

She had a terrible fear of bad weather and when there would be a bad thunderstorm she would take the kids and they would hide in a closet. Also, during their marriage they were burned out by house fires several times and they were always afraid that a fire in the night would kill the entire family.

Annie was one of the kindest people there was. She would not allow anyone to say anything negative about anyone in her presence. She said that if you couldn't say something good about a person, then don't say anything.

Annie was a fantastic cook and homemaker. Her family would gather at her home on Sundays to see what feast Annie had prepared. Jim and Annie were regular churchgoers so she would cook Saturday night to have dinner for everyone the next day. They were faithful members of the Church of Christ. Jim died September 21, 1956 and Annie died July 2, 1954. Both are buried in The Strickland Cemetery in Pea Ridge.

During their marriage they had seven children: Charles Pharoah (1907-1995), James Wesley (1909-1985), Mary Louise (1911-1992), James Cleveland (1915-1962), Ethel Bernice (1919 -1976), Allen (1920-1923) and Fletcher Byron Hinote (1922-living).

*Written by: Jimmie Leonard Brock, grandson of Annie Mae Cooper.  
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