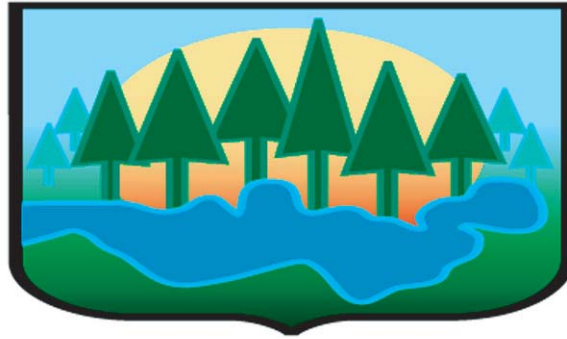


COOPER BASIN COOPER



No image of Washington Arnold Cooper located yet.

WASHINGTON ARNOLD COOPER

Circa 1798 – Apr. 20, 1869

Washington Arnold Cooper was born around 1798 somewhere in Georgia and that his wife's name was Nancy. Nancy was born in South Carolina in 1792 according to census records. Washington and Nancy had three sons and one daughter. Their oldest son was John Jordan Cooper. Based on records from the RLDS, Washington and Nancy were in Pulaski County, Georgia in 1820 when John Jordan Cooper was born. In the 1830 Federal census for Thomas County, Georgia, Washington also had two younger sons and a daughter.

Sometime between 1830 and 1836 Washington had moved his family down to Jackson County, Florida. There is a voters registration document for Washington Arnold Cooper in Jackson County Florida in 1837 which records that he and his family were living in Graceville, Florida. In order to register, a man had to have been living in Florida for at least one year which indicates that Washington had moved down into the Florida Territory sometime prior to 1836. Washington and his family are also recorded in the 1840 Federal census for Jackson County, Florida. His two younger sons don't show-up in this census. They may have died or were staying with another relative during the recording of the census.

In 1845 Florida was admitted as a state so they compiled a voter's registration list. On that list is a W. A. Cooper which we believe to be Washington Arnold Cooper registering to vote at John William's house in Roguetown community, Jackson County, Florida.

In 1848 Washington A. Cooper is listed as a Juror in Holmes County, Florida.

In the 1850 Federal Census, Washington A. Cooper, his wife (Nancy) and one son are listed as living in Holmes County, Florida. Washington was listed as being a 52 year old Millwright and was born in Georgia. Nancy was 58 years old and was born in South Carolina. John Jordan Cooper is listed as a 26-year-old

farmer and was also born in Georgia. Washington's two younger sons don't show up perhaps because they would have been between the ages of 20 and 25 and might have left their parents home and started families of their own. Washington's daughter would have been between the age of 15 to 20 by the 1850 census and may have been married which explains why she doesn't show up in the 1850 census.

Sometime between the 1850 census and the 1860 census Nancy must have died. We find Washington in Santa Rosa County with his son, John Jordan, and his family in the 1860 census but there is no record of Nancy. Nancy might have died in Holmes County, where they lived during the 1850 census, and that is why there is no grave marker in the old Cooper Cemetery with her name.

During May of 1856, Washington A. and John Jordan Cooper with his family moved from Washington County, Florida to Santa Rosa County, Florida. Washington was 58 years old at the time but a seasoned Millwright that would have been in great demand in the area. The timber industry was flourishing during the 1800s and especially near Milton, Florida. This might have been the reason why Washington moved with his son's family to the Blackwater River near Milton. During 1856 Washington helped his son finish building a large house, a stable, blacksmith shop and crib on their homestead next to a basin off of the Blackwater River which is today called Cooper Basin. It is believed that John Jordan Cooper and his father had staked all the land around the basin and a large portion to the east of the basin. When the Federal government finally assigned the land grants it was reduced down to only 160 acres on the east side of the basin.

During the 1860 Federal Census in Santa Rosa County, Florida, Washington A. Cooper is listed as the head of the household. Washington is listed as a 60-year-old farmer born in Georgia. John Jordan Cooper is listed as a 40-year-old, born in Georgia. Louisa Slay Cooper, John's wife, is listed as being 25 years old and having been born in Alabama. Washington's three grandchild: Henry Moses Cooper age 8 was born in Florida, William Erasmus Cooper age 4 was born in Florida and John Robinson Cooper age 2 was born in Florida.

In 1867 Washington A. Cooper registered to vote with his son John Jordan Cooper on September 12, 1867. Washington is listed as voter #22 and his son as voter #23.

Washington helped his son farm their Homestead until his death on April 20, 1869.

Washington Arnold Cooper's final resting-place is in the old Cooper Cemetery near the east edge of the old Cooper Homestead.

*Compiled by: Miles Davis Cooper, great great great grandson of Washington Arnold Cooper.
Updated November 2002*