

DUP AF Book 2 page 293

Biographical Sketch

of

Isaac Cooper

by Alice Forbes Crobsy Beck, his granddaughter

Pioneer Year 1848

David Spencer Company

Born 9 Feb 1807 at Mt. Earl, Lane County, Pennsylvania

Married Mary Murray 18 Feb 1834, in Pennsylvania.

Died 21 Nov 1882

Isaac Cooper, the son of Robert Cooper and Emmeline Marshall, was born on the 9th of February 1807, at Mt. Earl, Lane County, Pennsylvania. On the 18th of February 1834, in Penn., he married Mary Murray, who was born in Mt. Earl, on the 16 of February, 1815. Although their families were of the Quaker faith, they joined the L. D. S. Church and came on to Utah in 1848 in the David Spencer Company.

After reaching Utah, Isaac and his wife located at the point of the Mountain where they took up a quarter section of land, and later they had a sheep and dairy farm. Though still adhering to their Quaker ways of speech and habits, Isaac was quiet, unassuming, and honesty personified. He very much disliked trouble of any kind and would resort to any measure to avoid it. Due to early Quaker training, he did not believe in going to law, and would rather suffer wrong than do wrong. He was President of the High Priest Quorum, and all who knew him, loved him for his gentle and charitable ways. At one time he set out with a wagonload of flour donated by himself, and went to relieve the hunger of a belated hand-cart company.

Isaac and Mary were childless, so on the 1st of May, 1852, in Utah, Isaac married Nancy Lance Stuart Dayton, a widow with three children; Mary Stewart, Albert F., and Nancy Mindwell Dayton, who at the time was just a babe. The children borne of this union were: Isaac D., born on the 7th of March, 1855; and married Rebecca R. Norton of Lehi; John H., who was born on the 14th of Sept. 1857, and married Martha A. Olmsted of Lehi; and Cyrus, who was born on the 18th of January, 1860. At the birth of her son Cyrus, she was stricken with a paralytic stroke and was an invalid to the time of her death.

On the 18th of March, 1857, Isaac married Mary Stuart in American Fork, (she being then 19 years of age,) and their children were; Mary Jane, born on the 12th of Jan. 1860, and married Daniel Olmstead of Lehi, Syntha, born on the 20th of June, 1862, and married Rufus Norton; Martha E., born on the 7th of April, 1865, and married Leander D. Norton; Charles R., born on the 17th of March, 1869, and Joseph A., born on the 3rd of February, 1873. Mary Stuart was also an invalid with heart trouble for a number of years. She died when practically still a young woman, at the age of forty.

Though Grandfather Cooper was gentle, charitable, and kind, Grandmother, Nancy Cooper, was a different type of person. While honest and hardworking, she was of an extremely nervous and exacting nature, which was probably due to the sacrifices and hardships she had endured as well as her physical condition.

Old Aunt Mary, the first wife, was an odd character, very unassuming yet a dear, loveable old soul, who was a sort of mother confessor for the family. Being by nature a peacemaker, she in some way could always settle the difficulties that arise in all big families. She was quite content to be left to rock in her chair, while she smoked her pipe and meditated.

Aunt Mary Stuart Cooper was a very beautiful woman and of a happy cheerful nature, and though she was ambitious, she was ill most of her married life. She loved to do beautiful needle work, and I remember skirts with yards of ruffles all hemmed in the tiniest stitches, and made of cloth spun by my mother and Aunt Mary. She also did beautiful embroidery on some pillowslips, which my mother had until we were very nearly grown.

Grandfather Cooper moved to American Fork in about 1856 and owned the corner lot where Simpson's home now stands. His home was a large building, and he ran a boarding house. Later the family moved down the street from the old Grand and Condor home about two blocks, and located on the south west corner. It was in that home that my Grandmother, Nancy Cooper, passed away.

Grandfather Cooper lived a full life, and on the 21st of November 1882, he passed away, at the age of seventy-five years.