

Company G, 120th Ohio Volunteer Infantry



Photo Credit: Susie Holderfield

COOPER, Henry F. 15 Aug 1862

Henry, age 18, is listed in the Roster of Ohio Soldiers 1861-66 volume 8, page 260 as a Sergeant.

Henry was appointed Corporal 20 Mar 1863 and Sergeant on 1 Jan 1864. He was captured 3 May 1864 near Snaggy Point, on the Red River in Louisiana. He mustered out 7 July 1865 at Camp Chase OH by order of the War Department.

Father: Henry A. COOPER

Mother: Catherine MEECH

Birth: <1844> Doylestown, Chippewa Twp, Wayne Co OH

Marriage: Rachel A. BRUCE

Death: 7 July 1885, Akron, Summit Co OH

Cemetery: Glendale Cemetery, Akron, Summit Co OH

Burial Glendale Cemetery, Akron, Summit County OH, Section O, lot 34. His stone is barely readable, but we lucked out and found it. H. F. COOPER, Co G 120th Ohio Inf. Not very many GAR flag holders are left in this cemetery.

Pension Index: Henry F COOPER, D 114th and G 120th OH Inf. Invalid filed 1883 Oct 1, Application 496.732; no Certificate #, in OH. Widow, Rachel M RIPEOGLE, 1908 Oct 12, Application 905.956; no Certificate#, in OH.

Contributed by Tom Cooper, a Cooper family researcher, descendant of Henry's brother James of Stuart, IA.



Henry F. Cooper



Henry F. "Harry" Cooper was born about 1844 in Doylestown, Wayne County Ohio, the son of Henry A. and Catherine Meech Cooper. His early life was spent in Doylestown where his father was a blacksmith and also served in the capacity of justice of the peace and attorney. Henry F. was the third child in the family. He had two older siblings: Eunice born 1839 and James born 1842. His three younger siblings were: Charity P. born 1846, sister Wealthea "Wella" born 1854, and Howard W. born 1849. All the siblings were born in Doylestown.

1850 Census, Chippewa, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 103, Family 104: Henry COOPER, age 35 VT, blacksmith; Cath, age 33 OH; Jonas, age 12 OH; James, age 8 OH; **Henry, age 6 OH**; Charity, age 3 OH; Howard, age 1 OH.

1860 Census, Doylestown, Chippewa Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 20, Family 21: Henry COOPER, age 44 VT, blacksmith; Catherine, age 40 OH; James, age 17 OH; **Henry F, age 16 OH**; Charity F., age 12 OH; Howard, age 10 OH; Weltha A, age 6 OH.

Wooster Republican, 1 Jan 1863: Listed H. F. Cooper's residence as Chippewa.

Henry F., a young man of 18 (described as still being a schoolboy when he enlisted on his pension application), enlisted at Doylestown and mustered in as a Private. During his service he was promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant. He was taken prisoner on the Red River at Snaggy Point, Louisiana on May 3rd 1864, his regiment being in action on the transport "City Belle". Henry was marched from where he was taken prisoner to Camp Ford in Tyler, Texas. After reaching the camp he was transferred to Co. D of the 114th Ohio Volunteers until April 30th 1865. There he was held until May 27th 1865. In an affidavit filed with his pension request it states the following about his experience at Camp Ford..."during imprisonment - was exposed to the weather and had little or no medical care, scarcely any clothing - took sick and continued worse and better at times until released."

When released from Camp Ford, Henry reported to Benton Barracks in Mississippi on June 12, 1865. From there he was sent to Camp Chase Ohio where he arrived June 20 1865 and was mustered out on 7 July 1865 as a Sergeant.

*Henry returned to Doylestown after the War. He married there on August 15th 1869 to Rachael A. Bruce. They were married by his **father, Henry A., Justice of the Peace.***

1870 Census, Chippewa Twp, Wayne Co OH, Dwelling 98, Family 117: Henry F COOPER, age 25 OH, laborer in machine ship; Rachel, age 25 PA; Clyde, age 2 months OH, born Apr 1869. [Ohio Births: Clyde COOPER, born 24 Mar 1869 to Henry COOPER and Rachel.]

*Henry worked as did his father before him as a **blacksmith** throughout his life. Their first child, Clyde, was born in 1870 at Doylestown and was followed by Harry L. in 1876. Sometime after that the family moved to Hennepin County, Minnetonka, Minnesota. There in 1878 daughter Florence F. joined the family. In the 1880 Hennepin County census Henry was listed as a self employed blacksmith.*

1880 Census, Minnetonka village, Hennepin Co, Minnesota, Dwelling 99, Family 102: Henry F COOPER, age 34 OH, blacksmith, father born VT, mother born ???; Rachell N?, age 37 PA, wife, father born TN, mother born TN; Clyde, son, age 10 OH; Harry L, son, age 4 OH; Florence E, daughter, age 2 MN. [Ohio Births: Harry Lehi COOPER born 2 Aug 1875, Wayne OH to Henry F. COOPER and Rachael Anna BRUCE.]

*By October of 1883 Henry and family had **moved back to Wayne County Ohio** living in Dalton and in June of 1884 was living in Orrville Ohio.*

Henry was described in his application for pension physical as 5 foot 4 inches 135 lbs, dark hair, dark complexion and dark eyes. Suffering from poor health he made application for pension and was denied. To which he sent this note that indicated his displeasure with the decision to Commissioner William Dudley:

November 1883 Dalton Ohio

Mr. Dudley

If you think with the Government that I am not entitled to a pension, why do you not grant - if you think that a boy can be penned up 12 months and 24 days and come out a sound man - I have not more to say - and the Rebs must have been kind, their prisons a heaven.

yours

Henry F. Cooper

Less than two years later on the 7th of July 1885, Henry was killed in Akron, Ohio.

From the Dalton Ohio Gazette 15 July 1885

KILLED BY THE CARS

Henry F. Cooper of Akron, son of Henry Cooper Esq. of this place, was killed by a train on the P. and W. Railroad at Akron Tuesday evening last. From his father we learn these sad particulars of the sad accident. Henry was walking along the track near the Buckeye Shops when the Engine struck him. He was thrown fully 20 feet in the air and struck the ground with his head and shoulders breaking his neck. There were no cuts or bruises on his body and nothing to show that he had met a violent death. Physicians were summoned but he was dead when picked up. He was a member of the 120th Regiment and during the War served as an orderly sergeant of his company. He leaves a wife and three children. Mr. Cooper informs us the railroad company has been sued for damages and it can be readily proven that the train at the time it struck his son was running at a rate of 30 miles an hour, contrary to the law. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

From the Wayne County Jacksonian, Wooster Ohio 16 July 1885

Henry F. cooper who was killed by the cars at Akron last week was a son of Henry Cooper Esq. of Dalton and was a former resident of that place.

Akron Daily Beacon Contributed by Tom Cooper, a Cooper family researcher, descendant of Henry's brother James of Stuart, IA.

"Killed at a Crossing

Henry F. Cooper, a blacksmith residing at 723 East Exchange street, was struck and almost instantly killed at 5:30 last evening by the south-bound Orrville accomodation train on the C. A. & C. Road at the Exchange street crossing. Before Cooper reached the track he was noticed by the railroad flagman, who, in addition to displaying the usual danger signal, called to him to keep back. These warnings were unnoticed or unheeded and he had nearly crossed the track when he was struck by the pilot and dashed to one side. Dr. Underwood, who was passing at the time, was called and the railroad's physician, Dr. McEbright was summoned by telephone although medical aid was of course unnecessary. Coroner Brashear was notified and an examination of the body was made. The only outward mark was a slight discoloration on the left side of the head.

Mr. Cooper who served during the war as a sergeant in co. G, 120th O. V. I., was 42 years of age and leaves a wife and three children, aged six, eight and 16 years. The family are left in quite destitute circumstances, as they depended for support upon his daily work, supplemented by his wife's earnings from washing. The deceased has lived in the city since last Fall, removing thither from Orrville. He was somewhat addicted to drink, and as he had not been working yesterday, and is known to have been drinking quite freely, it is very probable that liquor was the chief cause of the unfortunate affair. His employer had given him warning that dismissal would be the penalty of further inebriation, but in the former's absence from the city Cooper had returned to his cups.

Bystanders say that just before Cooper reached the C. A. & C. track he ran rapidly forward for about 40 feet, apparently thinking that the train was coming on the track from which he was running instead of on the C. A. & C., which he had yet to cross. To some it seemed as though he was making a dive in front of the cowcatcher, and the opinion is even expressed that his act was intentional. He had got almost to the rail farthest from him when he was caught up. His hands went into the air convulsively and he was pitched over several feet from the track. In 20 minutes life was extinct. Death resulted from the concussion, the train going at such a rate that life was knocked out of the unfortunate man in the instant. It was discovered at his residence, to which the body was immediately removed, that the neck was broken and that three ribs were fractured. Witnesses of the accident agree that the train was running at a much greater speed than the city ordinance allows, some putting it at three times the specified rate and others saying it was at least 20 miles an hour. The fact that with air brakes on, the train did not stop short of two or three lengths from the crossing indicates that the legal limit was exceeded. However, the engineer's whistle and the flagman's warning should have prevented the accident had the deceased been in condition to take full note of his surroundings.

Coroner Brashear was engaged today in taking testimony in the case. The engineer, Wm. Harkness, testified that he was running eight or 10 miles an hour when the accident occurred and other railroad men corroborated him. A number of bystanders testified that the train was going much faster. The train was a quarter of an hour late at the time. A shopmate of Cooper's told the Coroner that the deceased had said that 'if he lost his job he would make way with himself.'

From Thursday's Daily Beacon. The funeral of Henry F. Cooper, who was killed Tuesday night by a C. A. & C. express train, took place at 2 o'clock to-day at his late residence on Exchange street. The body was interred in the G. A. R. lot, Glendale cemetery. The resident members of the 120th Regiment O. V. I., of which the deceased was a member, attended the funeral. Cooper died exactly 20 years from the date of his discharge from the army. He was confined 13 months in the rebel prison at Camp Ford, Tex. He was a member of the Association of Union Ex-Prisoners of War."

Henry was buried in Glendale Cemetery, Akron Ohio.

His wife Rachael remarried on 12 May 1888 to Nicolas J. Replogle who died March 17, 1906. Rachael applied for a pension for Henry's service in 1908 and this request was also denied due to the fact that she had remarried.

[Contributor Tom Cooper has no further information at this time about the children and descendants of Henry and Rachael.]

Sons of Union Veterans: Henry F COOPER, born 1840, died 1885. Burial Glendale Cemetery, Akron, Summit County OH.