

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Cooper, Nelson Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Montgomery County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 7 May 1837 Venango County, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place

① \_\_\_\_\_

② Sarah D. Bullock 1872 Vellisca, Iowa

③ Henrietta Kneers 10 Jul 1883 Vellisca, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business \_\_\_\_\_

B. Civic responsibilities IOOF;

C. Profession Physician and surgeon

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 25th General Assembly 1894

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 21 July 1908 Vellisca, Iowa; buried Vellisca Cemetery, Vellisca, Iowa

8. Children By 1st wife - Elmer; Emmett; William J.; by 2nd wife - Etta May (died at age 21); by 3rd wife - Lorinda

9. Names of parents Nelson and Margaret (Reibel) Cooper

10. Education Edmsted at Cumberland, Ohio

11. Degrees Attended lectures at the Eclectic College of Cincinnati, Ohio.

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He moved with his family to Ohio in 1844
- He began practicing medicine in Ohio and practiced there for 8 years.
- Military service - Civil War - medical department
- He came to Wilkes, Iowa in 1869 and began his medical practice
- His third wife, Henrietta, died spring 1905
- He went to Hood River, Oregon, to live with his daughters after the death of his wife.
- He came out 11 Jul 1908 to Wilkes to visit where he died on 27 Jul 1908



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PACKAGE

## VILLISCA MOURNS A FOUNDER

**Dr. F. Cooper, Early Settler and Ex-legislator, Dies Suddenly While Visiting His Former Home**

Hon. Filson Cooper, ex-legislator, a retired physician and surgeon and one of the earliest settlers in the eastern part of Montgomery county, lately of Hood River, Oregon, died here while visiting at the home of Mrs. P. A. Shires in the town he helped to found Monday morning of this week at fifteen minutes past six o'clock. His death, which followed after only forty minutes of intense suffering, was caused by congestion of the lungs. He was conscious to the last and talked about his condition with the physician who was hastily called to attend him until almost the very moment of his death. The suddenness of his demise was a severe shock to the community and on all sides words of sympathy and expressions of sorrow were uttered as the news swept over the city. Only the evening before the doctor had attended church and seemed in his usual healthy, jovial condition. At all times he was the perfect picture of robust hearty old age, but it is now authoritatively learned that his looks belied his condition. He had on other occasions suffered similar attacks to that from which he died, and Wednesday night of last week was one of the occasions.

Dr. Cooper was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, May 7, 1837, and removed to Ohio in 1844. He was educated at Cumberland, Ohio, and attended lectures at the Eclectic college of Cincinnati, beginning the practice of medicine in Ohio, where he followed his profession for eight years. He went into the army in 1863 as a private soldier one year, but remained in the medical department.

He came to Villisca, Iowa, in 1868, and began the practice of his profession. That was the year after the first church was established here and just two years after the first school-house was built. Villisca was at that time a very small village. There was no burial ground here then, no fire company, no railroad, no newspaper, no bank, and it was eight years before Company B was formed. The town consisted mainly of a blacksmith shop, two stores, two or three residences and several acres of waving grain fields. It was known as "The Forks." Dr.

was preparing to arise from his night's slumber.

The funeral will be held tomorrow morning at nine o'clock at the Mrs. Shires home. It will be simple in ceremony and of a private nature. Those wishing to view the body may do so by calling at the home, but the casket will not be uncovered during the last services. Interment will be in the Villisca cemetery. It seems only fitting that he should be laid to rest in Old Mother Earth at the place where he lived for so many years and with which he was so familiar in his younger days. His son, Elmer, and wife of Denver, Colorado, are here for the funeral and Mr. Emmett Cooper of New Orleans and Miss Torinda of Hood River, Oregon, are expected to arrive today. The obsequies will be in charge of Rev. Enoch Hill, pastor of the Methodist church, who will make a brief address.

### Grain Harvest Nearing Completion

Des Moines, July 27.—The average daily temperature was about normal; the daily departures ranging from plus one degree in the eastern to minus one degree in the western part of the state. The rainfall was generally below the normal, and the sunshine was excessive. The weather was generally fair, but light and widely scattered showers occurred over the larger part of the state from Tuesday to Sunday. Heavy rains fell Sunday night in the central and north central districts, and especially in the upper Des Moines river valley, as shown by the following telegraphic reports, viz: Boone, 3.36 inches; Fort Dodge, 3.05, and Eatherville, 2.10 inches.

The bulk of the exceptionally large crop of hay has been secured in good condition. The small grain harvest has been vigorously pushed, and is now nearing completion in southern districts. Threshing returns indicate a light yield ranging from 10 to 25 bushels per acre. Winter wheat and barley show good quality and average from 20 to 35 bushels per acre. Conditions have been favorable for corn, but rain is needed soon over a large part of the state if the rapid growth of the past three weeks is maintained. Potatoes and pastures are in good condition.

Following is a summary of reports received from crop correspondents of the Iowa Weather and Crop Service, showing the estimated condition of the crops as of July 27, compared with the average condition on the date

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Company it was formed. The town consisted mainly of a blacksmith shop, two stores, two or three residences and several acres of waving grain fields. It was known as "The Forks." Dr. Cooper was barely thirty years of age at that time, and with vim and energy of youth did much to promote and upbuild the struggling little village. He was a charter member of the Villisca lodge of Odd Fellows and also a member of the A. O. U. W. For many years he enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest practicing physician in Villisca, and his practice extended over twenty miles of territory. He devoted much time and study to the eye and lungs.

He was elected by the republicans of Montgomery county to serve in the house of representatives in the twenty-fifth general assembly, succeeding J. S. Boise, senior, also of Villisca.

He was married three times and was a widower when he died. By his first wife he was the father of three sons, Elmer of Denver, Emmett of New Orleans and William F. of Hood River. He was married to his second wife, Sarah D. Bullock, at Villisca in 1872, and to this union was born a daughter, Ettie May, whose death took place twenty-one years ago. His last marriage was to Miss Henrietta Knerr of Jefferson county, and was solemnized in this city by Rev. Brown July 10, 1883. Miss Knerr was a sister of Mrs. Caroline Roth and Mrs. George Wendling, who moved to Villisca with their husbands many years ago. To the doctor by this wife was born a daughter, Torinda, now of Hood River.

In the fall of 1904 Mrs. Cooper's health began to fail and the doctor and family decided to go west. The doctor waited long enough to cast his vote for Theodore Roosevelt for president and the next day started. Mrs. Cooper passed away the following spring, and the doctor and his daughter were living quietly together until a short time ago when the former returned to the old home for a visit with many friends. He arrived here on the 11th of July and was greeted on all sides by many hearty handshakes and such expressions as, "You're looking well. Oregon must agree with you." There was never so much as a hint of a suggestion that in less than three weeks would mark the passing of his soul. He died at the home of a friend, where had taken apartments during his visit here. His physician and Mrs. Shires were the only ones with him when the end came just at the time he

received from crop correspondents of the Iowa Weather and Crop Service, showing the estimated condition of the staple crops July 25, 1908, as compared with the average condition on the date in past years: Corn, 88 per cent; spring wheat, 93; oats, 85; flax, 92; barley, 94; hay crop, 104; pastures, 102; potatoes, 93; apples, 48; grapes, 78.

Conditions August 1, 1907: Corn, 79 per cent; spring wheat, 85; oats, 76; barley, 85; flax, 88; hay, 80; potatoes, 90; pastures, 100; apples, 40; grapes, 84.

**GEO. M. CHAPPEL,**  
 Section Director.

#### Bryan in Villisca

William Jennings Bryan, candidate for the office of president of the United States, passed through Villisca last Friday evening about half past nine o'clock on his way to Chicago to transact business. Mr. Bryan has a number of admirers in Villisca and a good healthy crowd were at the depot when No. 12 went through to have a look at the honored gentleman. He didn't have time to talk, but even if he had the ethics of politics would not have permitted him to say anything before being notified of his nomination by the Democratic convention at Denver not long ago. As one man remarked, it seemed a pity some one here didn't notify him while he was here and then he might have made a little speech. Several had the privilege of shaking his hand, and when the train pulled out some cheering was done, but the demonstration didn't wake anybody up. Undoubtedly Bryan, as a man, is more popular today than ever before, but what story will the ballots tell? That is another question.

#### McMahon—Poore

Information has just reached Villisca telling of the wedding of Mr. E. J. McMahon and Miss Margaret Poore, two young people of Villisca, which occurred at Grand Island, Nebraska, where the bride had gone to make her home, Monday of last week. Mr. McMahon was formerly employed in The Review office. His bride was a popular Villisca young lady, a graduate of the class of '08 of the Villisca high school and a person of many accomplishments, especially in amateur dramatic and oratorical fields.

Mr. and Mrs. McMahon are now making their home in Lincoln, where the former has employment in the creamery.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Shockeey, Friday, July 24, 1908, a son.

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## 1880 United States Federal Census

Name: **Filson Cooper**  
 Home in 1880: Villisca, Montgomery, Iowa  
 Age: 43  
 Estimated birth year: abt 1837  
 Birthplace: Pennsylvania  
 Relation to head-of-household: Self (*Head*)  
 Spouse's name: Sarah S.  
 Father's birthplace: Pennsylvania  
 Mother's birthplace: Vermont  
 Neighbors:  
 Occupation: Physician  
 Marital Status: Married  
 Race: White  
 Gender: Male  
 Cannot read/write:  
 Blind:  
 Deaf and dumb:  
 Otherwise disabled:  
 Idiotic or insane:

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>Filson Cooper</u>	43
	<u>Sarah S. Cooper</u>	36
	<u>Elmer A. Cooper</u>	17
	J. Emmet Cooper	14
	William F. Cooper	10
	Ettie May Cooper	2
	Gertie Bonyman	22

Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: Villisca, Montgomery, Iowa; Roll: T9\_357; Family History Film: 1254357; Page: 385.1000; Enumeration District: 149; Image: 0771.

## Source Information:

Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2005. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints © Copyright 1990 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration T9. 1,454 rolls.