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Cooper, Josiah (1828 - 1905)

Melba Peterson

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COOPER, JOSIAH

File No. B-256

Josiah Cooper was born August 31, 1828 at Paultz, New York. His early life was spent on a farm. At the age of eighteen years he went to New York city and served as an apprentice to a cabinet maker, thoroughly mastering all the details of the trade.

In 1848, Josiah Cooper married Harriet Frederick and later moved to Newberg, New York, where for several years he continued at his trade.

In 1855 he came to Minnesota and settled in Shakopee, Minnesota, where he followed his trade of cabinet maker. In 1862, with that devotion to public duty which was ever characteristic of him, he volunteered his services to aid in putting down the rebellion. At this time the greatest Indian outbreak in the history of America took place and instead of being sent south as he expected he was called upon to defend the frontier against the inroads of the savages. As soon as this danger was passed he was mustered into Company I, 9th Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers and served as Sergeant of his Company till the close of the war, being mustered out on August 24, 1865.

Immediately after the termination of his military services he moved to Ashley, Stearns County, Minnesota where he took a homestead where his family lived for many years, while he worked at his trade in Sauk Centre.

Later Josiah Cooper moved into Sauk Centre in order that his children might receive the benefits of an education. Here he worked as a contractor and carpenter.

In 1890 he practically retired from social life. For many years Josiah Cooper served the City as an alderman, a member of the Board of Education, and also served on the State Board of Equalization.

Josiah Cooper was a charter member of the Masons.

Josiah Cooper was survived by his wife and children. Mrs. Allan Vessey, Mr. Charles Cooper, Mr. J. Fred Cooper, Mrs. L. W. Gilman and Mrs. Frank S. Parker.

Josiah Cooper died on November 3, 1905.

Publication Granted

Interviewed: Mrs. Frank S. Parker
Date: January 29, 1937
By: Melba Peterson

FROM THE RECORDS IN THE STEARNS COUNTY COURT HOUSE

FOR THE JOSIAH COOPER BIOGRAPHY

DEATH RECORD BOOK B. PAGE 71 LINE 3

Josiah Cooper Born in New York August 31st, 1828

Son of Josiah Cooper and Hannah Ellis

Died November 3, 1905

Age 77 years 3 months and 2 days