



In-Depth First Settler Profile:
Thomas Cooper (1696) /
Desire (Lamberton) Cooper

Name: Thomas Cooper

Birth: July 3, 1646, Springfield, Mass. (*Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952*)

Emigration: Born in western Massachusetts

Death: September 11, 1722, Middletown, Conn. (BCVR)

Occupation & Public Service: Unknown [**Compiler's note:** He is referred to as "Mr. Thomas Cooper" in the records, indicating he may have been a ship's captain. This has not been proven.]

Marriage: m. Desire Lamberton, August 1669, prob. New Haven, Conn. (b. March 13, 1642, New Haven, Conn.; d. aft. 1708, Middletown, Conn.) She was the daughter of George Lamberton and Margaret (Lewen) Lamberton of New Haven, Conn. (*Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952*)

Parents: Thomas Cooper (abt. 1617-1675) and Sarah Slye (1615-1688) m. abt. 1641. Thomas Cooper, carpenter, first settled in Windsor, Conn. and moved to Springfield, Mass. in 1642, where he was confirmed Lieutenant of the Springfield train band in 1667. "He was one of the three men killed 5 Oct 1675 when the Indians burned Springfield [during King Phillip's War]." Sarah (Slye) Cooper married her second husband, Lieut. William Clark, on November 15, 1676 and died at Northampton, Mass. on May 8, 1688. (*Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952*) "Lieut. Thomas Cooper, who before the assault [on Springfield] rode out to towards the fort to treat with the Indians, having two or three men with him, and was shot by the enemy concealed in the bushes a short distance from the town, but managed to ride to the nearest garrison-house, where he died." (*NEHGSR* vol. 50, p. 354-356)

Children: (*Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952; Vital Records of Springfield, Mass. to 1850*)

(1) Doctor Samuel Cooper, b. June 7, 1673, Springfield, Mass.; d. February 25, 1724/5, Springfield, Mass. (*Vital Records of Springfield, Mass.*); m.(1) Dorothy Ward, abt. 1696, Middletown, Conn. (one child); m.(2) Mary Rogers, abt. 1701, Springfield, Mass. (7 children); m.(3) Mary Ashley, abt. 1713, Springfield, Mass. (4 children) [**Compiler's note:** On April 19, 1696, Dorothy (Ward alias) Cooper, wife of Samuel Cooper admitted to full communion (Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Conn. p. 49); on March 19, 1724/5, "administration on the estate of Samuel Cooper, late of Springfield, was granted to his widow Mary Cooper and to Lamberton Cooper [eldest son], both of Springfield." (*Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952, p. 503*)]

(2) Thomas Cooper, b. September 4, 1678, Springfield, Mass.; d. 1733, Middletown, Conn.; m. Abigail Whitmore, January 26, 1709/10, Middletown, Conn. (7 children) [**Compiler's note:** On July 7, 1725, Thomas Cooper and Abigail his wife quitclaimed

all rights of "our Late Honoured father Francis Whitmore" (MLR vol. 5, p. 289); inventory of estate of Thomas Cooper taken March 27, 1733; on February 5, 1733/4, "Lamberton Cooper, age 16 years, chose his uncle Francis Wetmore [Whitmore] to be his guardian." (MAN vol. 3, p. 29-30)]

(3) Desire Cooper, b. February 14, 1684, Springfield, Mass.; d. unknown [**Compiler's note:** "Desire Cooper, daughter of Thomas & Desire d." (BCVR)]

(4) Premature son b. and d. January 26, 1686, Springfield, Mass.

Residence/Property: On July 26, 1695, Margaret Tompson quitclaimed five acres "unto Thomas Cooper of Springfeild, in the county of new hampshier in the prouince of the massachusetts ... all that messuage or tenement that George Phillips or John Tompson her Late husband had in the said messuage of George Phillips" and also three acres bounded on the mill brook (MLR vol. 1, p. 120); on February 25, 1707/8, Joseph Miller conveyed to Mr. Thomas Cooper fourteen acres at Hunting Hill in exchange for the three acres at mill swamp (MLR vol. 2, p. 224-225) [**Compiler's note:** His property was described in a later deed as a five-acre homestead "bounded Northrly on the highway southerly on a small Crick, easterly in Hezekiah Sumners Land westerly on Richard Turners Land;" fourteen acres on the Mill hill or Hunting Hill so called "bounded Eastrly on the highway Southrly on the Common or highways Northrly on John Williams his Land partly & partly on the Comons." (MLR vol. 4, p. 166)]

Will: No will found. "On 4 Feb. 1707/8, Thomas Cooper of Middletown and Desire his wife conveyed to their son Thomas their estate in Middletown, reserving life use; and debarring son Samuel, to whom has been deeded estate in Springfield. [footnote: Middletown Deeds, 2:298]" (*Hale, House and Related Families/Jacobus, 1952, p. 506*)

Burial Location: Unknown

Notes:

(SAV): "COOPER, THOMAS, Springfield, s. perhaps, of Thomas of the same, m. 1659, Desire, d. it may be, of that capt. George Lamberton of New Haven, lost 13 yrs. bef. in the N. H. built sh. going to London."

(SAV): "LAMBERTON, GEORGE, New Haven 1641, prob. merch. from London, was one of the chief inhabs. employ. 1643 in project. a sett. at Delaware, but resist. by the Swedes, wh. vindica. their right; by w. Margaret had Mercy, bapt. 17 Jan. 1641; Desire, 13 Mar. 1642; and Obedience, 9 Feb. 1645; beside Hope, George, and Hannah; went in Jan. 1646 for Eng. in the sh. of 80 tons, 'cut out of the ice 3 miles,' with Mr. Gregson, the w. of dep.-gov. Goodyear, and others, wh. was never heard of. Johnson, in his W. W. P. and Winthrop II. 266, well relate the matter; but Mather, Magn. I. 25, has prov. the gr. superiority result. from tradit. of a story told 50 yrs. aft. to the contempo. narrat. By tak. the 'dimensions' of the sh. in the air, Mather's worthy corresp. could make her a. 150 tons. His readers admit, that benefits of similar measure the ecclesiast. hist. gain. in his everyday life. He left wid. wh. m. dep. gov.



Thomas Cooper (1696) / Desire (Lamberton) Cooper
Page 2-2-2

Stephen Goodyear, and, perhaps, ds. Elizabeth wh. m. 1654, Daniel Sillevant; Desire, m. 1659, Thomas Cooper, jr. of Springfield; Hannah m. Samuel Wells; and, next, Col. John Allyn; and Obedience, wh. m. 1676, Samuel Smith.”

(Records of First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870): On April 19, 1696, Dorothy (Ward alias) Cooper, wife of Samuel Cooper, admitted to full communion (p. 49); on May 30, 1697, Desire daughter of Dorothy (the wife of Samuel) Cooper baptized (p. 50); on December 23, 1711, Abigail daughter of Thomas and Abigail Cooper baptized (p. 74)

(MLR): On February 4, 1707/8, Mr. Thomas Cooper with Desire his wife “in consideration of the loue favour and affection that he hath for and doth bear unto his son Thomas Cooper to Incorage him in settling and to preuent any disturbance he afterwards may meet with” conveyed “the one half or moiety of his lott in Midletown aforesaid together with the one half of all the houses that stand thereon: Also one half of all meadow lott that lyes on the mill river” and that the other half of the estate shall belong to his son Thomas Cooper after the death of his father and mother; also, Thomas Cooper Senior has given by deed of gift “to his son Samuel Cooper a considerable estate in Springfield,” and thus debars his son Samuel from any interest in the property in Middletown (vol. 2, p. 298).

(MLR): On February 8, 1717/8, Thomas Cooper Senior “for the Loue fauour and affection that he hath for and doth bare unto his son Thomas Cooper ... Did by a Deed of Giffit to his sd son Thos Cooper conuey Certaine Lands and buildings and in sd. Deed did Reserue the one half to himself & to his wife during natural Live ... that the sd father Thomas Cooper senr hath of his own free vollantary accord” conveyed to his son Thomas “the whole and eury propper propriety of the sd

Thoams Cooper senr within the Township or Town bounds of Midletown” (vol. 4, p. 166) [**Compiler’s note:** Since Desire (Lamberton) Cooper did not sign this deed, her death is presumed to have occurred between 1708 (when she signed the previous deed) and 1718.]

(MLR): On January 5, 1735/6, Ephraim Wilcock sold to Thomas Cooper of Middletown, stonecutter, and “Desiah” his wife, land bounded northeast on the homelot that did belong to Noadiah Russel, decd. (vol. 7, p. 323) [**Compiler’s note:** Desire (Cooper) Russell, daughter of Samuel Cooper of Middletown, Conn. and Springfield, Mass., granddaughter of Thomas and Desire Cooper, and widow of Noadiah Russell, married her second husband, Thomas Cooper, on February 20, 1733/4.

“The second husband was not her first cousin, Thomas Cooper of Middletown, who was much her junior in age and who married Tabitha Bacon. He was probably of a different family.” (*Hale, House and Related Families*/Jacobus, 1952, p. 504 & 506)]

For further reading:

Hale, House and Related Families, by Donald Lines Jacobus (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1952.)

[**Compiler’s note:** Jacobus mistakenly identifies Abigail (Wetmore/Whitmore) Cooper as the daughter of Thomas Wetmore and Katherine (Leete) Wetmore; however, on March 23, 1712/3, Thomas Cooper and Abigail his wife conveyed land which “decends to the sd. Coopers abouesd from the estate of her father Leut. Ffrancis Whitmore sometime of Midletown deceased.” (MLR vol. 3, p. 155)]

The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635, Volume II, C-F, by Robert Charles Anderson, George F. Sanborn, Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn (Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2001.)

VERIFY - VERIFY - VERIFY

Abbreviation code used in SMFSD
biographical sketches and in-depth profiles:

- (MVR)** Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)
- (BCVR)** *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)
- (MLR)** *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)
- (MAN)** *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995, Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)
- (CBRMC)** *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families*. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.
- (MUH)** *Middletown Upper Houses* (Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)
- (FFS)** Frank Farnsworth Starr (“The Settlers of Matabeseck 1650-1660,” *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

- (CAF)** *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)
- (GMB)** *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)
- (SAV)** *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer’s Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)
- (GFHC)** *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)
- (HMC)** *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)
- (RPCC)** *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)
- (HCCM)** *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)
- (NEHGSR)** *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register)*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007.) (Online database available at NewEnglandAncestors.org)
- (TAG)** *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)