

Robert Alexander Cook

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

Robert Alexander Cook

b. 31 May 1833 Blount County, Tennessee

d. 16 Mar 1919 Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon

buried [Gold Hill IOOF Cemetery](#), Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon

s/o John McConnell Cook and Nancy Elizabeth Morton

m. 20 Feb 1853 Salt Lake Valley, Utah

Almira Ann Wooldridge

b. 20 Feb 1834 Trigg County, Kentucky

d. 08 Jan 1908 Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon

buried [Missouri Flat Cemetery](#), Applegate, Jackson County, Oregon

d/o John Wooldridge and Temperance Vaughn(?)

1850: Cass Twp, Greene County, Missouri, November 21, 1850; John M. Cook, 42, farmer, \$200, TN; Nancy, 40, TN; Nancy A., 17, TN; Robert A., 16, TN; William S., 15, TN; Mary, 13, TN; Samuel H., 12, TN; Sarah E., 10, TN; John M., 7, MO; Sophronia J., 2, MO; Thomas H.B., 11/12, MO

1852: emigrated in 1852 with Smith-Barlow Train; wintered over in Salt Lake Valley before continuing on to Oregon in 1853

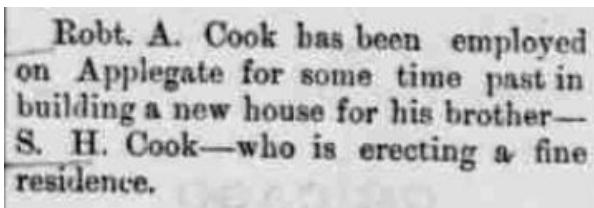
1860: Applegate Pct, Jackson County, Oregon, August 14, 1860; Robt A. Cook, 27, farmer, \$100 \$900, TN; Almira A., 26, KY; Sarah E., 4, OR; John A., 3, OR; W.A., 1, OR; Thos Mee, 30, common laborer-teacher, \$0 \$600, Eng

1870: parents and siblings emigrated to Oregon

1870: Rock Point PO, Jackson County, Oregon, June 10, 1870; Robert A. Cook, 37, miner, \$300 \$500, VA (TN) ; Elmira A., 37, keeping house, TN (KY); Sarah E., 14, KY (OR); John A., 12, OR; William A., 11, OR; Thomas J., 9, OR; Robert W., 5, OR; Mary E., 3, OR; Nancy A. Goodwin, 39, no occupation, TN

1880: Footh Creek, Jackson County, Oregon, June 21 & 22, 1880; Robert A. Cook, 47, blacksmith, TN AL TN; Almira, 47, keeping house, KY KY NC; Thomas J., 19, son, gold mining, OR TN KY; Robert L., 15, son, works in the mines, OR TN KY; Mary E., 13, dau, at home, OR TN KY

1882:



Robt. A. Cook has been employed on Applegate for some time past in building a new house for his brother—S. H. Cook—who is erecting a fine residence.

[Oregon Sentinel, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon, Saturday, September 9, 1882 p.2]

Robt. A. Cook is now a temporary resident of Grant's Pass. Wonder if he has gone there to see that Josephine county gets a decent Court House.

[Oregon Sentinel, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon, Saturday, April 11, 1885 p.3]

1900: Footh Creek, Jackson County, Oregon, June 19, 1900; Robert A. Cook, head, May 1833, 67, m-47yrs, TN TN NC, miner-placer; Almira, wife, Feb 1833, 67, m-47yrs, 8-5, KY KY KY; Leslie, g-son, Jun 1888, 15, s, OR OR IA, at school; James, g-son, Jun 1890, 10, s, OR OR IA, at school; Hardy, g-son, Feb 1893, 7, s, OR OR IA, at school

1910: Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon, April 30, 1910; John H. Wooldridge, head, 44, m1-18yrs, OR KY MO, hostler, liver barn; Mary E., wife, 43, m1-18yrs, 3-3, OR TN KY; John F., son, 16, s, OR OR OR, farm-working out; Robert G., son, 14, s, OR OR OR; Henry R., son, 3, s, OR OR OR; Robert A. Cook, father in law, 76, wid, TN unk unk, own income

"Robert A. Cook: lives on Foot's creek; is a miner and farmer; P. O. address Draper: was born in Blunt county, Tenn. 1833; came to state 1853, to county 1859: married Feb., 20, 1853 to Almira Wooldridge; children, Sarah E. (dec), John A., Wm. A., Thos. J. Robert L. and Mary E." [History of Southern Oregon by Albert Walling p. 502]

COOK OLDEST POSTMASTER

Draper, Or., Official Is 86 Years Old; in Service for 27 Years.

MEDFORD, Or., July 12.—(Special.)—Another claimant to the title of oldest postmaster in Oregon has appeared in the person of Robert A. Cook, 86 years old, who has been postmaster at Draper for 27 years.

Draper is a village consisting of the postoffice alone and Mr. Cook and his son and daughter are the sole inhabitants. It is 25 miles from Medford, nestled in the mining country north of here at the middle fork of Footh Creek. Robert Cook came to Oregon 48 years ago with an ox team and 19 years later, on the death of Silas Draper, who kept the store and postoffice at the little place during the mining boom, took charge of the little five by six shack that served as a dispensary for all the mails that ever came. In order that people may make no mistake of the dignity of the place "Draper Postoffice" has been burned in the door of the little shack.

In consideration for his services as postmaster back in the mountains, miles from civilization, the United States Government allows Mr. Cook the cancellations, amounting to probably \$25 a year. Mr. Cook's claim is that he has been postmaster for more consecutive years than any other person in the state.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Thursday, July 13, 1911 p.6]

JOSEPHINE PIONEER DIES

Robert A. Cook Crosses Plains to
Oregon in Year 1852.

GOLD HILL, Or., March 22.—(Special.)—Robert A. Cook, who died at Gold Hill on March 16, was one of the few remaining pioneers of this vicinity. He was born May 31, 1833, in Blunt county, Tennessee. When a boy he moved with his family to Missouri, and in the spring of 1852 left for Oregon arriving at Oregon City June 27, 1853.

While en route across the plains he married Elmira A. Wooldridge. He first settled in Yamhill county, later in Lane county and in 1850 located in Josephine county on the Applegate river. Six years later he settled on a homestead on Footh creek, six miles west of Gold Hill, where he had since resided. He was a blacksmith. He was postmaster at Draper for 30 years, and was county commissioner for Jackson county when the present court house was erected in 1883. He is survived by four sons, one daughter, 17 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-great-grandchildren.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Sunday, March 23, 1919, p.12]

DEAD OF THE NORTHWEST

Mrs. Elmira Ann Woldridge Cook, Pioneer of 1853.

GRANTS PASS, Or., Jan. 16.—(Special.) —Mrs. Elmira Ann Woldridge Cook, who died in this city January 8, was born in Cristine County, Kentucky, February 20, 1833. She moved with her parents to Southwestern Missouri in 1844, where her father died. In April, 1853, with her mother, sister and brothers, she started for the Oregon country. Winter was spent in Salt Lake Valley, where, February 20, 1853, she was married to R. A. Cook. They left the valley, April 27, of the same year, crossed Goose Creek Mountains and struck the Oregon road at old Fort Hall. From there the party descended the Snake and Columbia until the Deschutes River was reached, when they crossed the Cascades by way of the Barlow pass, and entered Oregon City, June 27, 1853.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook located in Yamhill County where their first child was born and buried. The latter part of August they moved to Lane County, where they remained until June, 1859, when they left for Southern Oregon and arrived in Jackson County, June 27, locating on Applegate Creek, where they lived until the Fall of '66 when they moved to Foots Creek, the present Cook home. She is survived by a husband and five children: J. A. and W. A. Cook, of Gold Hill; T. J. Cook, of Foots Creek; R. L. Cook, of Rock Point; Mary E. Woldridge, of Grants Pass. Among her descendants are 20 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

[Morning Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Friday, January 17, 1908 p. 13]

Children of Robert Cook and Almira Wooldridge:

1. Sarah Emily Cook

b. 20 Jun 1855 Lancaster, Lane County, Oregon

d. 16 Mar 1875 Applegate Valley, Josephine County, Oregon

buried [Missouri Flat Cemetery](#), Applegate, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 08 Dec 1870 Applegate Valley, Josephine County, Oregon

Levi C. Miller

b. 22 Jul 1837

d. 10 Sep 1880

buried [Missouri Flat Cemetery](#), Applegate, Jackson County, Oregon

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1870: Rock Point PO, Jackson County, Oregon, June 10, 1870; Robert A. Cook, 37, miner, \$300 \$500, VA (TN) ; Elmira A., 37, keeping house, TN (KY); Sarah E., 14, KY (OR); John A., 12, OR; William A., 11, OR; Thomas J., 9, OR; Robert W., 5, OR; Mary E., 3, OR; Nancy A. Goodwin, 39, no occupation, TN

2. John Andrew Cook

b. 14 Mar 1857 Lancaster, Lane County, Oregon

d. 30 Apr 1938 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Gold Hill IOOF Cemetery](#), Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 14 Mar 1877

Emma Florence Bailey

b. 1859 Iowa

d. 1902 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

buried [Hays-Gall Cemetery](#), Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon

d/o Henry F. Bailey and Minerva J. Cook

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1880: Footh Creek, Jackson County, Oregon, June 21 & 22, 1880; John A. Cook, 23, gold miner, OR TN KY; Emma F. 19, keeps house, IA unk IN; Robert E., 2, son, at home, IA OR IA; Sarah A., 11/12 (Feb), dau, at home, OR OR IA

3. William Alexander Cook

b. 29 Nov 1858 Lancaster, Lane County, Oregon

d. 21 Jul 1943 Jackson County, Oregon

buried [Gold Hill IOOF Cemetery](#), Gold Hill Jackson County, Oregon

m. 24 Mar 1880 Jackson County, Oregon

Mary Clementine Morris

b. 11 Dec 1860 Missouri

d. 05 Jun 1946

buried [Gold Hill IOOF Cemetery](#), Gold Hill Jackson County, Oregon

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1880: Footh Creek, Jackson County, Oregon, June 21 & 22, 1880; Wm A., 21, gold miner, OR TN KY; Mary C., 20, wife, keeping house, MO MO MO; John R. Bailey, 21, boarder, gold miner, MO unk unk; Melinda J. Orme, 20, works out, IA unk unk

4. Thomas Jefferson Cook

b. 02 Nov 1860 Lancaster, Lane County, Oregon

d. 26 Feb 1945

buried [Jacksonville Cemetery](#), Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 15 Apr 1903

Florence Jane Taylor

b. 1871

d. 1947

buried [Jacksonville Cemetery](#), Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon

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5. Henry Jackson Cook

b. 12 Jun 1862 Lancaster, Lane County, Oregon

d. bef 1870 Draper, Jackson County, Oregon

6. Robert Lee Cook

b. 16 Mar 1865 Applegate Valley, Josephine County, Oregon

d. 06 Feb 1941

buried [Gold Hill IOOF Cemetery](#), Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon

m. 10 Apr 1890 Jackson County, Oregon

Sarah Alice E. Morris

b. 08 Aug 1866

d. 30 Mar 1935

buried [Gold Hill IOOF Cemetery](#), Gold Hill, Jackson County, Oregon

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mining, OR TN KY; Robert L., 15, son, works in the mines, OR TN KY; Mary E., 13, dau, at home, OR TN KY

7. Mary Emeline Cook

b. 08 Feb 1867 Footh Creek, Jackson County, Oregon

d. 10 May 1929 Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon

buried [Missouri Flat Cemetery](#), Applegate, Jackson County, Oregon

m. c1892

John Henry Wooldridge

b. 1866

d. 13 Jul 1935 Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon

buried [Missouri Flat Cemetery](#), Applegate, Jackson County, Oregon

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