Robert Alexander Cook
Pioneer of 1852
compiled by Stephenie Flora
orenpioneers.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 Vaugh(n?)

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: Foots 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:

[Oregon Sentinel, Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon, Saturday, September 9, 1882 p.2]
1900: Foots 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]

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**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 Foot's Creek. Robert Cook came to Oregon 43 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 $23 a years. 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 Blount 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, 1852.

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 Foote's 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-grandchildren.

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

1880: Foots 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

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
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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: Foote 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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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

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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1880: Foote 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
7. Mary Emeline Cook  
b. 08 Feb 1867 Foots 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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