

## **Sketch: Cooke Family from Redford's *The History of Methodism in Kentucky*.**

Norburn Cooke and his Christian wife, Judith V Cooke, emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky in 1810, and became members of the first class organized in Versailles in 1811. Mrs Cooke was brought up in the Church of England, of which her parents were members, her father, Colonel Bernard Markham, being a Vestryman, her mother an ardent and consistent communicant, and herself a catechist. Not content to rest in the mere form of Christianity, she joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1809, as a seeker of religion, and at the "Mourners' bench," four weeks afterward, found the pearl of great price. In coming to Kentucky she failed to find the religious privileges she had enjoyed in her Virginia home, but not discouraged, she sought out the nearest preaching-place, which was several miles from her house, at Matthew Latta's. There she met with Charles Holliday, who was preaching on the circuit, and she rejoiced that in a strange land she might mingle her tears, her prayers, and her praises with the disciples of Jesus. At the formation of the class in Versailles, her husband became a member of the Church, from which time, hand in hand, they journeyed together in the pathway to heaven, until the strong arm on which she had leaned was palsied in death.

In 1822 they removed to Henry county, and settled about five miles from Newcastle, and became members of the first class formed in that village. The influence they exerted in behalf of the Church was felt through the entire community.

On the 27th of December 1865, in the eightieth year of his age, Mr Cooke fell asleep in Jesus. He had been feeble for several years, and a great sufferer the last year of his life; but to the termination of the conflict, his confidence in the merits of Jesus Christ remained unshaken.

Mrs Cooke is a remarkable woman. Blessed with intellectual endowments of a very high order, her mind well cultivated and richly stored with useful knowledge, with conversational powers but rarely equaled, attractive in her manner, soundly converted, a devoted member of the Methodist Church, and with an ardent desire to accomplish good, she has made an impression in the circle of her extensive acquaintance, in favor of Methodism and Christianity, that will never be effaced. She enjoys a green old age.

She was born in July 1787, and in a letter from her own pen to the author, replete with pious thoughts, after referring to the fact that the members of the first class in Versailles had all died, she says, "I, too, am waiting the Master's call to my place in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. As was my resolution in joining the Church, so it is this day, the Lord helping me, never to be weary in the service of my Heavenly Father, but to try and grow in grace and in the knowledge of the way of salvation."

[source] *The History of Methodism in Kentucky*; Rev A H Redford (1818-1884).

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Judith Virginia Markham](#)

**Sketch: Cooke Family from Redford's The History of Methodism in Kentucky; Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2014.**