

**Individual Narrative of Martha<sup>6</sup> Penfold [87]  
Daughter of Richard Penfold and Mary<sup>5</sup> Leverich [24]  
Wife of John Obadiah Cooper**

Martha Penfold was born on 23 Dec 1757 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the daughter of Richard Penfold and Mary Leverich. The birth date is a calculated date based upon Martha's age at the time of her death.<sup>1</sup> Martha Penfold was baptized 23 April 1758 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, the daughter of Richard Penfold.<sup>2</sup>

Martha Penfold married John Obadiah Cooper, son of Obadiah Cooper and Hester Terboss, on 4 May 1777 probably at Newtown, Queens Co, New York. A primary source for the date and place of marriage has not been determined. It is likely that the marriage took place at the Newtown Presbyterian Church, however there are no records for the Church for the revolutionary war period when the British occupied Newtown and Queens County.<sup>3,4,5</sup> John O. Cooper was born 5 September 1755 at Fishkill, Dutchess Co, New York.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

John Wesley Cooper, the son of John Obadiah Cooper and Martha Penfold, was born at Fishkill, Dutchess Co, New York on 11 September 1778. John married Elizabeth Hawes 21 April 1804 at Peekskill, Westchester Co, New York. John W. Cooper died 7 March 1848 in Manhattan, New York Co, New York. He was buried at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. Primary sources are lacking for his birth and marriage dates and places. John's widow "Eliza" Cooper is found in the 1850 U.S. Census, Ward 18, Manhattan.<sup>9,10,11,12</sup>

Martha Penfold Cooper died on 18 Sep 1778 at Fishkill, Dutchess Co, New York, at age 20 years, 8 months, and 26 days, leaving behind an infant son John Wesley Cooper. Martha was buried at the First Reformed Church of Fishkill Village and was identified as the wife of John O. Cooper. Her tombstone includes the following epitaph: "Her Flesh in Hope rests in the Dust, Her soul Departed Hence we trust, in Praising God amongst the Just."<sup>13,14</sup>



John O. Cooper served multiple tours of duty on the American side for the duration of the Revolutionary War, most prominently as a Lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment of Dutchess Co, New York Militia. John recorded details of his service in his 1832 application for a revolutionary war pension. John Edward Cooper, a great grandson, was accepted into the Sons of the American Revolution in 1908 based upon John O. Cooper's service.<sup>15,16,17</sup>

During the war, John O. Cooper married for a second time Margaret Campbell, the 17 year old daughter of General John Campbell, then deputy Quartermaster General of the Continental Army. The marriage probably took place at Fishkill, Dutchess Co, New York, but a primary source has not yet been identified for the date and place of the marriage.<sup>18</sup> John O. Cooper and Margaret Campbell had eight children: Sarah, Martha, James, Thomas, Peter, Thomas, William, and Edward. Sarah, Martha, James, and the first Thomas all died young.<sup>19,20</sup>

Peter Cooper (February 12, 1791 – April 4, 1883) was an American industrialist, inventor, philanthropist, and candidate for President of the United States. He designed and built the first steam locomotive in the U.S., and founded the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in Manhattan, New York City.<sup>21</sup>

John O. Cooper died 16 October 1838, 3rd Avenue and 33rd Street in Manhattan, New York County, New York, at the age of 83. No probate record has been found for John. The death record at the New York City Municipal Archives indicates a cemetery entitled "Ml. C. Allen". Therefore, John may have been buried at the Allen St Methodist Episcopal Churchyard Allen St between Delancey and Rivington St in Manhattan. Burials in this cemetery were reinterred in the Cypress Hills Cemetery in Queens County 1854-1856.<sup>22,23,24</sup>

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RSA: Posted by Notorc @ 1/29/2007 09:30:00 AM. "The Peter Cooper Story, 1: The Lost Peekskill Years," *Postscripts, An Online Magazine Offering a Pastiche of Articles on Current Affairs, History, Technics, Opeion, Writing, Advice, Humor and Trivia* (29 January 2007).

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## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup>Find A Grave, online <[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)>, First Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill, Memorial No. 762707719. Hereinafter cited as Find A Grave.

<sup>2</sup>Arthur White, "Newtown Presbyterian Church Records," 1922, Transcription, New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Irma and Paul Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York 10018, Baptisms, 1758. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."

<sup>3</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), First Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill, Memorial No. 762707719.

<sup>4</sup>RSA: Posted by Notorc @ 1/29/2007 09:30:00 AM, "The Peter Cooper Story, 1: The Lost Peekskill Years," *Postscripts, An Online Magazine Offering a Pastiche of Articles on Current Affairs, History, Technics, Opinion, Writing, Advice, Humor and Trivia* (29 January 2007). Hereinafter cited as "The Peter Cooper Story."

<sup>5</sup>Cornelius Von Erden Mitchell, *Ancestry of William Spingler Mitchell, Cornelius Von Erden Mitchell, John Van Beuren Mitchell* (Privately Printed: Edited by H. Minot Pitman, 1967), page 65. Hereinafter cited as *Mitchell Ancestry*.

<sup>6</sup>Pension Application File, Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; *Microfilm Publication M804* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).

<sup>7</sup>Gertrude A. Barber, compiler, *Death Notices from the New York Evening Post, 1801-1890* (New England Historic Genealogical Society: R. Stanton Avery Collection, 1933-1938), 17 October 1838. Hereinafter cited as *New York Evening Post, Deaths From 1801-1890*.

<sup>8</sup>New York, New York City Municipal Deaths 1795-1949, Database Family Search, online <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Special:Search?fulltext=true&search=New+York%2C+New+York+City+Municipal+Deaths&searchbutton=Search>, Municipal Archives City of New York Death Registers, 1795-1949, Liber 11, LDS Film No. 447549.

<sup>9</sup>RSA: Posted by Notorc @ 1/29/2007 09:30:00 AM, "The Peter Cooper Story."

<sup>10</sup>Lineage application of John Edward Cooper, National Number 19598, Sons of the American Revolution, National Number 19598.

<sup>11</sup>Burial Record, Green-wood Cemetery, 500 25th Street, Brooklyn, Kings, New York 11232; , December 1857, Lot 2282, Section 57.

<sup>12</sup>1850 U.S. Census New York, New York Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 537, Ward 18, Manhattan, page 193B.

<sup>13</sup>Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), First Reformed Dutch Church Fishkill, Memorial No. 76270719.

<sup>14</sup>Elias William Van Voorhis, *Tombstone Inscriptions from the Churchyard of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill village, Dutchess Co, NY* (New York, New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1882), page 53. Hereinafter cited as *Tombstone Inscriptions Reformed Dutch Church Fishkill*.

<sup>15</sup>Pension Application File; National Archives and Records Administration, Microfilm Publication M804, File No. S45,998.

<sup>16</sup>Berthold Fernow, *New York in the Revolution* (1887; reprint Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1999), page 279. Hereinafter cited as *New York in the Revolution*.

<sup>17</sup>Sons of the American Revolution, John Edward Cooper, National Number 19598.

<sup>18</sup>RSA: Posted by Notorc @ 1/29/2007 09:30:00 AM, "The Peter Cooper Story."

<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [LDS], *Pedigree Resource File, database* (FamilySearch: <http://www.familysearch.org>, 2007.) John O. Cooper, ark:/61903/2:2:3WRF-2NN. Hereinafter cited as *Pedigree Resource File LDS*.

<sup>21</sup>Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, online <<http://en.wikipedia.org>>, Peter Cooper. Hereinafter cited as Wikipedia.

<sup>22</sup>Database Family Search, 1795-1949, Liber 11, LDS Film No. 447549.

<sup>23</sup>Barber, *New York Evening Post, Deaths From 1801-1890*, 17 October 1838.

<sup>24</sup>Carolee Inskeep, *The Graveyard Shift: A Family Historian's Guide to New York City Cemeteries* (Orem, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2000), pages 5-6. Hereinafter cited as *The Graveyard Shift*.