

## 35. COPE

1. **George Cope** died in Blount County, Tennessee, before 27 March 1826, when administration was granted on his estate.<sup>[1]</sup> He appears to have married at least twice. Perhaps he was the George Cope who first married, by bond issued in Orange County, North Carolina, 25 August 1795, **Hannah Boyd**. The bondsman was Richard Cope, and M. Hart witnessed.<sup>[2]</sup> James Cope, evidently a son of George, entered a bond in Blount County to administer the estate of Hannah Cope on 25 March 1829, with John Woods and Archibald Maxwell as securities.<sup>[3]</sup> George's will, dated 24 August 1825, names his wife **Elizabeth A. \_\_\_\_\_**, but she seems to be the mother only of the children who initially took tenancy in common with her in his land on the south side of Nine Mile Creek, under the terms of his will.<sup>[4]</sup> Elizabeth was born reportedly in Tennessee,<sup>[5]</sup> on 26 November 1791. After George's death she followed her sons, and all three known stepsons, to Montgomery County, Missouri. She died there on 1 November 1879 and is buried in the New Providence Methodist Church cemetery in Bear Creek Township.<sup>[6]</sup> The 1880 census mortality schedule reports that she was 88 years old, died of old age, and had lived in the county for 36 years. The family number, 266, corresponds to her son Martin's household.<sup>[7]</sup>

George's will was re-recorded in 1869, along with other wills prior to that date, after the original record book was destroyed. The will reads as follows.

State of Tennessee Blount County

In the name of God Amen I George Cope of the County and state afore said, Liveing on Nine mile Creek, being of sound mind and disposing memory for which I thank God, and calling to mind the uncertainty of life and being desirous do dispose of all such worldly substanse as it hath pleased God to bless me with, as this Twenty fourth day of August one thousand eight hundred and twenty five make and publish this my last will and testament in manner as follows that is to say,  
first, I give and bequeath all that part of my tract of land that I now live on that lies north of nine mile Creek, to my two sons Viz James and Samuel to be their right and property, but is to be understood that the said James and samuel is to pay to each of the other heirs one hundred dollars in property, valued at traid rates, that is to say to John, Ann and Jean, and the said James and Samuel is to pay the state, the demand the[y] have against that part of my land, l[y]ing on the South side of Nine mile Creek and to Clear it out of the state office.

Secondly, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elisabeth and heir Children all the land I own on the south side of said Nine Mile Creek, together with all and every other article of my property now owned by me to be their own right, and to be equally divided between them before signed. And I hereby make and

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<sup>1</sup> Blount County, Tennessee, County Court Clerk, Probate Cases, Settlements, Guardianships, 1795–1980, DGS 106231834, images 12, 13, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3238383](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3238383), accessed 4 Sept. 2024).

<sup>2</sup> *Orange County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds to 1868*, 3 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1936), 1:94.

<sup>3</sup> Blount Co. Court Clerk, Probate Cases, 1795–1980, DGS 106231834, image 11.

<sup>4</sup> Blount County, Tennessee, Wills, 1:27, DGS 4776261, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/198002](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/198002), accessed 4 Sept. 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Martin L. Cope household, 1850 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., population schedule, Dist. No. 61, page 181, dwelling 191, family 191, microfilm publication M432, roll 407 (Washington: National Archives).

<sup>6</sup> Carol Davidson, "Elizabeth A. Cope," memorial no. 82015980, *Findagrave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/82015980](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82015980), added 15 Dec. 2011), with photograph of marker by BJ Sublette Kuebler, added 18 Jan. 2015.

<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth Cope entry, 1880 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., mortality schedule, ED 108, SD 3, page 974, line 31, "Missouri Census Records and Tax Lists," *Missouri State Archives* ([s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/census/Default.aspx](http://s1.sos.mo.gov/records/archives/archivesdb/census/Default.aspx), accessed 6 Sept. 2024); Martin L. Cope household, 1880 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., population schedule, ED 108, SD 3, page 15, dwelling 265, family 266, microfilm publication T9, roll 705 (Washington: National Archives).

ordain my beloved wife Elisabeth Cope and my son Samuel Cope executrix and executor of this my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and date above written.

The witnesses were Archibald Maxwell and John Woods.<sup>[8]</sup> Samuel and Elizabeth entered their bond to administer the estate on 27 March 1826, with Woods and Maxwell as securities. The bond was filed 27 August 1826.<sup>[9]</sup>

George's devise on the south side of the creek was held in four equal undivided interests—one for Elizabeth, and one for each of her surviving children. These interests were conveyed much later by five separate deeds. On 13 April 1843, John Hoyle and his wife Margaret conveyed land obtained by "descent from George Cope" to Jesse Kerr. She acknowledged the grant, separately from her husband, on 24 January 1844.<sup>[10]</sup> Martin L. Cope also conveyed his interest by a deed to Alexander Cook by a deed of 13 April 1843, though it was not recorded until 1847.<sup>[11]</sup> Elizabeth, the widow, also made a deed in Cook's favor on 15 September 1843.<sup>[12]</sup>

On 20 August 1845, George W. Cope, by John Hays his attorney in fact, conveyed his interest in land obtained by "decent from George Cope" to Cook. This deed recites both the title and the bounds in detail.<sup>[13]</sup>

Whereas by decent from George Cope deceased, late of Blount County, Tennessee, One Elizabeth Cope, Martin L. Cope, Hoyle as was Margaret Cope and myself have derived title to and now hold equal and undivided interest in two several tracts of land or parcels in the state of Tennessee Blount County on the waters of Nine Mile Creek and bounded as follows. (viz:) Beginning at a stake on the bank of Nine Mile Creek, being a conditional between the said George Cope Decd and James Cope; thence south fifty one and three fourths East near fifty nine chains to a stake and pointers; thence with an entry made by the said George Cope Dec.d south forty six west thirty six chains to a stake and pointers [thence] south nine West twenty four chains and three tenths to a white oak [thence] North eighty West fifteen chains and nine tenths to a stake & pointers [thence] North thirty nine West near fifty two chains to the creek, the conditional line as above state; thence with the meanders of said creek as the said conditional line to the Beginning. Containing eighty four acres be the same more or less. Also, an entry attached thereto made by the said George Cope deceased and bounded as follows. Beginning at a white oak on a hill side fifth corner to said Copes occupant survey; thence North nine East twenty four chains and three tenths, to a stake, said Copes corner; then North forty six East thirty six chains to a stake in a line of John Hannah; then with his line south fifty and three fourths East forty chains and nine tenths to a stake and pointers, said Hannah's corner; then south fifty-two West fifty eight chains and two tenths to a stake; then North fifty & three fourths West twenty chains and two tenths to the Beginning, containing fifty acres, more or less.

By a deed of the same date as George W., Jesse Keer Jr. also conveyed his own purchase from the Cope estate to Cook. Keer's property description gives a similar description to George W.'s deed, but describes it as the portion "that descended from George Cope Dec.d to Margaret Hoyle as was Margaret Cope, one of the heirs of George Cope Dec.d."<sup>[14]</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Blount Co. Wills, 1:27.

<sup>9</sup> Blount Co. Court Clerk, Probate Cases, 1795–1980, DGS 106231834, images 12, 13.

<sup>10</sup> Blount County, Tennessee, Deeds, T:140-1, DGS 8151181, *FamilySearch* ([www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/200443](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/200443), accessed 4 Sept. 2024).

<sup>11</sup> Blount Co. Deeds, V:6-7, DGS 7902501.

<sup>12</sup> Blount Co. Deeds, V:5-6, DGS 7902501.

<sup>13</sup> Blount Co. Deeds, U:259-60, DGS 8151181. The attorney appears actually to be the grantor's brother-in-law, John Hoyl, as the acknowledgment in Margaret's deed seems to alternate between "Hoyle" and "Hayes." The power of attorney, granted 15 January 1844, is recorded in Blount Co. Deeds, T:127-8, DGS 8151181, and already places George W. in Montgomery Co., Mo., six years ahead of the federal census (see no. viii., below).

<sup>14</sup> Blount Co. Deeds, U:262-3, DGS 8151181.

Children of George Cope, perhaps by Hannah Boyd, are:

- i. JOHN W. COPE, b. Tenn., ca. 1797,<sup>[15]</sup> d. 1852, m. JANE D. \_\_\_\_\_, b. Ky. 28 Dec. 1803, d. near Price's Branch, Montgomery Co., 12 Dec. 1883, aged 79y 11m 14d.<sup>[16]</sup>
- ii. JAMES B. COPE, b. Tenn.,<sup>[17]</sup> 15 Oct. 1798, d. 28 Sept. 1865, aged 66y 11m 13d,<sup>[18]</sup> m. Blount Co. 20 Jan. 1825 POLLY HUTTON,<sup>[19]</sup> b. Tenn., ca. 1797,<sup>[20]</sup> d. 21 Jan. 1858, aged 61y, both bur. Bellflower Baptist Church cemetery, Montgomery Co.<sup>[21]</sup>
- iii. SAMUEL C. COPE, b. Tenn., ca. 1801, living Montgomery Co., 1850, m. Blount Co. 8 Sept. 1826 CLARA WILLIAMS, who was not living in 1850.<sup>[22]</sup>
- iv. ANN COPE, m. Blount Co. 2 Oct. 1823 BRIAN C. MORSE.<sup>[23]</sup>
- v. JANE W. COPE, m. Blount Co. 8 Aug. 1826 NEWTON WILLIAMS.<sup>[24]</sup>

Children of George and Elizabeth A. (\_\_\_\_) Cope are:

- vi. MARTIN LUTHER COPE, b. Blount Co. 3 April 1818, d. Montgomery Co. 14 March 1889,<sup>[25]</sup> m. Blount Co. 10 Feb. 1842 MARTHA LOVE,<sup>[26]</sup> b. Tenn.,<sup>[27]</sup> 12 Nov. 1820, d. Montgomery Co. 31 July 1886, aged 65y 8m 19d.<sup>[28]</sup>
- + vii. MARGARET HODGE COPE, b. Blount Co. 8 June 1820, d. Knoxville, Knox Co., Tenn., 11 April 1890,<sup>[29]</sup> m. Blount Co. 27 Oct. 1842 JOHN HOYL,<sup>[30]</sup> b. N. C., ca. 1818,<sup>[31]</sup> son of John and Dorothy (Wells) Hoyl (see 17. Hoyl, 4), d. Blount Co. 12 Aug. 1867.<sup>[32]</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> John W. Cope household, 1850 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., population schedule, Dist. No. 61, page 181, dwelling 189, family 189, microfilm publication M432, roll 407 (Washington: National Archives).

<sup>16</sup> Carol Davidson, "Jane D. Cope," memorial no. 82019560, *Findagrave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/82019560](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82019560), added 15 Dec. 2011), with photograph of marker by Sharon Albright Moeller, added 1 July 2012; Captain Noah Grant Chapter, *Deaths from Montgomery County, Missouri*, Connecticut DAR Genealogical Records Committee Report, ser. 2, vol. 15 (1993), 27, citing *Montgomery Standard*, Montgomery City, Mo., 28 Dec. 1883.

<sup>17</sup> James B. Cope household, 1850 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., population schedule, Dist. No. 61, page 180, dwelling 178, family 178, microfilm publication M432, roll 407 (Washington: National Archives).

<sup>18</sup> "123," "James B. Cope," memorial no. 118066849, *Findagrave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/118066849](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/118066849), added 2 Oct. 2013), with photograph of marker by Deborah M. Hunn, added 24 June 2014.

<sup>19</sup> Edith Burns Little, *Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages: 1795 to 1910* (Evansville, Ind.: Whippoorwill Publications, 1982), 55.

<sup>20</sup> 1850 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., population schedule, Dist. No. 61, page 180, dwelling 178, family 178.

<sup>21</sup> Montgomery County Historical Society, "Cemetery & Probate" ([mchsmo.org/cemeteryRecords.php](http://mchsmo.org/cemeteryRecords.php), accessed 6 Sept. 2024. "123," "Pollie Cope," memorial no. 118066887, *Findagrave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/118066887](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/118066887), added 2 Oct. 2013), has a photograph of marker by Deborah M. Hunn, added 24 June 2014, but this inscription is difficult to read.

<sup>22</sup> Samuel C. Cope household, 1850 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., population schedule, Dist. No. 61, page 182, dwelling 199, family 199, microfilm publication M432, roll 407 (Washington: National Archives); Little, Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages, 54 ("Coope").

<sup>23</sup> Little, *Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages*, 54.

<sup>24</sup> Little, *Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages*, 54 ("Coope").

<sup>25</sup> Carol Davidson, "Martin Luther Cope," memorial no. 82058262, *Find a Grave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/282058262](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/282058262), added 16 Dec. 2011), with two photographs of marker by BJ Sublette Kuebler, added 18 and 27 Jan. 2015; Capt. Noah Grant Chapter, *Deaths from Montgomery County*, 71, citing *Montgomery Standard*, 29 March 1889.

<sup>26</sup> Little, *Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages*, 55.

<sup>27</sup> 1850 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., population schedule, Dist. No. 61, page 181, dwelling 191, family 191.

<sup>28</sup> Carol Davidson, "Martha Jane Love Cope," memorial no. 82058238, *Findagrave* ([www.findagrave.com/memorial/82058238](http://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82058238), added 16 Dec. 2011), with photograph of marker by Sharon Albright Moeller, added 17 May 2012; Captain Noah Grant Chapter, *Deaths from Montgomery County*, 48, citing *Montgomery Standard*, 6 Aug. 1886.

<sup>29</sup> Jonathan Kennon Thompson Smith, *Genealogical Abstracts from Reported Deaths: The Nashville Christian Advocate, 1890-1893* (Jackson, Tenn., 2002), 22 ([www.tngenweb.org/records/tn\\_wide/obits/nca/nca90-02.htm](http://www.tngenweb.org/records/tn_wide/obits/nca/nca90-02.htm), n. p.: David Donahue Memorial Tennessee Records Repository, n. d.).

<sup>30</sup> Little, *Blount County, Tennessee, Marriages*, 55, 141.

<sup>31</sup> John Hoyl household, 1860 U. S. census, Blount County, Tennessee, population schedule, 1st District, Brick Mill post office, page 1, dwelling 970, family 970, microfilm publication M653, roll 1241 (Washington: National Archives).

<sup>32</sup> Smith, *Reported Deaths: The Nashville Christian Advocate, 1890-1893*, 22.

viii. GEORGE W. COPE, b. Tenn., ca. 1823, m. AMANDA \_\_\_\_\_, b. Tenn., ca. 1826; both living Montgomery Co., 1850.<sup>[33]</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> George W. Cope household, 1850 U. S. census, Montgomery Co., Mo., population schedule, Dist. No. 61, page 180, dwelling 179, family 179, microfilm publication M432, roll 407 (Washington: National Archives)

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