

GEORGE COOPER, one of the foremost oil producers of his day in western Pennsylvania, and a highly respected and very charitable citizen of Parker City, was a son of Charles and Margaret (Morgan) Cooper, and was born in county Wicklow, Ireland, on the last day of December, 1832. He came with his parents to the United States, in 1842, and twelve years later removed with them to Parker's Landing, now Parker City. (See sketch of James S. Cooper.) He attended the public schools of his native country and the common schools of Pennsylvania. Leaving school, he was employed at different kinds of work until the oil excitement came in western Pennsylvania and monopolized public attention from everything else. In the opening up of the first oil territory he was interested. He was a stockholder in some of the first wells put down, was successful and by continued and fortunate investments in paying oil territory, soon became, with his brothers, John T. and James S., among the leading producers of the oil region. The name of Cooper Brothers soon became widely known in connection with the wonderful oil industry of Pennsylvania. In their extensive operations he was active and energetic, and discharged faithfully every duty that devolved upon him. He was an active oil producer until a few years before his death, which occurred February 7, 1890, when in the fifty-ninth year of his age. His remains were consigned, amid many sorrowing friends, to their last resting-place in a beautiful cemetery.

In 1861 he married Louisa McGlaughlin, daughter of James McGlaughlin, of Butler, Pa. Their union was blessed with one child, a son: James H. Cooper. Mrs. Cooper is an estimable woman and a consistent member of the Presbyterian church.

George Cooper was a republican in political opinion and had served as school director of his borough. He was an earnest and faithful member of the Presbyterian church, in whose work for the betterment of human society he always took a deep interest. The following account of his death appeared in one of the leading county papers:

"Friday morning last the spirit of Mr. George Cooper left its tenement of clay for realms above. The deceased was one of the prominent oil producers during the palmy days of the Upper creek and also in this region. The name of Cooper Brothers, at that time, was very familiar. The past few years disease settled upon him, preventing active business. For many months prior to his demise he was confined to the house,. He was a quiet, unobtrusive man, shunned public notoriety, was no office seeker or taker, but lived retired. He leaves a wife and one son, James H., and a large number of relatives and friends to mourn his departure. The funeral exercises were held in the Presbyterian church, Rev. J. W. miller officiating. The address was delivered with true Christian kindness and affection; the feeling words and manner of the speaker were very impressive."

George Cooper always yielded undeviating devotion to any duty which devolved upon him. His kindness to the poor was remarkable. In private life he was a most affectionate and devoted husband and father. The pleasure of social intercourse he fully appreciated; especially in the company of those in whom he placed confidence, and to whom he felt attachment. His death was sincerely lamented by numerous friends whose respect and love he had secured by his honorable course of action in life.