

He remained at Fort Ridgley until the summer of 1863, when he proceeded to St. Paul and acted as provost guard until ordered South in October 1863.

While Josiah was away, Harriet and the children lived with Harriet's parents, Jacob and Catherine Stevens Frederick in Shakopee. Eliza Stella Cooper was born in December 1862 while Josiah was in Fort Ridgley.

Josiah Cooper was appointed Corporal on September 30, 1862, and served as a carpenter in the Quartermaster Department. He was promoted to Sergeant on December 1, 1863, and he drilled the troops. Josiah was 5'6" tall with fair complexion, light hair and hazel eyes. He headed to Rolla, Missouri for 7 months, then headed to St. Louis and ultimately to the Battle of Guntown, Mississippi on June 10, 1864, where they were defeated.

During this battle, Josiah was double-clicking to the front when he suffered sunstroke and fell out. The intense heat in Mississippi made him fall off his horse. Josiah was sitting beside the road with his head in his hands by two buddies, William Dean and Fred Merrill, as they were retreated. "Leave me alone!" said Josiah, but they did not. One carried the gun and the other dragged him along.

Josiah Cooper mustered out of the infantry on August 24, 1865 at Fort Snelling. He was nearly 37 years old.

In the Spring of 1866, Josiah Cooper and Jacob S. Frederick went to Ashley township in Stearns county, Minnesota and pick out homesteads.



They returned to Shakopee and brought their families back to Ashley in covered wagons drawn by oxen and wagons drawn by horses. Josiah worked as a cabinet maker in Sauk Centre, community to and from the homestead. Their last child, Rosa Zaddie Cooper was born in 1872.

The family moved to town in 1873 so that the children could receive the benefits of an education. The *Sauk Centre Herald*, on June 21, 1873, noted "the tide of immigration is flowing northwest and westward in a continual stream," with trains of travelers moving through town. Eliza Stella Cooper died in Sauk Centre in 1874 of bronchitis.

Josiah died on November 3, 1905, at age 77. Josiah always smoked a pipe, and eventually had a rose-like growth on his cheek. It was cancer, which had begun on his lip. He was buried at the Greenwood Cemetery in Sauk Centre, Minnesota. Josiah's wife, Harriet, died on July 3, 1929 of old age, and was buried next to her husband in Sauk Centre.



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Josiah Cooper

1828-1905



Josiah Cooper and Harriet Frederick Cooper lived in the area now Valley Fair in 1855 until 1866. They then moved to Sauk Centre, Minnesota area, and later in the town of Sauk Centre. The middle and right pictures are the places where Josiah, Harriet, and their children lived in Sauk Centre. Josiah was in the Civil War on Company I of the Ninth Infantry Division.≥n -

Josiah Cooper was born August 31, 1828 in New Paltz, New York, child of Josiah (1785-1855) and Hannah Ellis Cooper (1784-1870.) Little is known about his family; he is believed to be the youngest of their five children, according to Arlene Gable, in a family history sketch sent Don Wagner at the Shakopee Heritage Society in 2002. Arlene is the great granddaughter of Josiah Cooper, and her research was used in this brochure.

Josiah Cooper's early years were spent on a farm in New York. In 1846, Josiah, at age 18, went to New York City to serve as an apprentice cabinetmaker.

In August 1848 at the old Frederick homestead near Harrimans (Turners), New York, Josiah Cooper married Harriet Frederick. He was then 20 years old; she was 17. Harriet was born on May 9, 1831 in Harrimans, NY, the youngest child of Jacob and Catherine Stevens Frederick.

Josiah and Harriet's first child, Jane Ann, was born in 1849 on the Frederick homestead. In 1851, the family moved to Pennsylvania, probably because Josiah had a job as a cabinetmaker there. Their second child, Catherine Emma, called Kate, was born there. They moved back to NY, and in September of 1855, Josiah and Harriet had a son, James. It was clear that they waited for the birth of the

child before they moved west.

The forced treaties force on the Indians opened up southern Minnesota for the colonists-settlers, who moved from the east to the area, which family lore called "the wilds of Minnesota." Harriet's father, Jacob Frederick also had some Bounty Land for service in the War of 1812. So around 1855, Josiah and Harriet Frederick Cooper headed to land of 10,000 lakes. Harriet's brothers, Francis W, Frederick, Albert Frederick, Jacob Frederick, and sister Polly Ann Frederick Ferrill and their families, as well as Harriet's parents, Jacob and Catherine Stevens Frederick, all made their way to Minnesota.

Family lore noted that in October of 1855, after the birth of James, they travelled by "train and ferry to the end of the line" in Shakopee, to Harriet's brother, Francis W. Frederick, who had land about 3 miles from Shakopee, and now the land that became Valleyfair. One eastern relative who stayed behind said that they left by oxcart to the west.

In 1855, it seem s likely that travelled by train to Albany, NY or perhaps up the Hudson River by river boat that far, thence through the Erie Canal to the Great Lakes, through the lakes to Milwaukee or Chicago, overland from Milwaukee to Minnesota, or if from Chicago by canal or overland to the Mississippi and then north on the

Minnesota River to Shakopee, said Arlene Gable.

Josiah and Harriet arrived as settlers-colonists in Shakopee, Minnesota in October of 1855, which is not the best time for people to arrive. Perhaps they did not know about the rigors of a Minnesota winter, or maybe they had to because they wanted to wait until James was born, but luckily they had a place waiting for them with Harriet's brother. They set up their own home nearby, and by November 7, 1856 James Cooper died there. Charles Henry Cooper was born in 1857, and in 1860 Jacob Fred Cooper was born in land near what later became Valleyfair.

It was in 1860 that records show the Josiah and Harriet received patents for bounty land that was reassigned to him in Eagle Creek township. The land is just south of the Minnesota River and a shirt distance southeast of what was later Valleyfair. Jacob Frederick Jr, Harriet's father, and Nathaniel Ferrell owned land that was now part of Valleyfair. The land was very poor, and Josiah, who could not find work as a cabinet maker in Shakopee, so he made ax handles, and did other work in Shakopee, in addition to farming.

On August 15, 1862, Josiah volunteered for three years in military service in the Civil War. Josiah was 34 years old. The military allowed the volunteers to gather their crops before they were mustered out, but once the U.S.-Dakota War broke out, the abandoned the crops and headed to Fort Snelling. Josiah Cooper joined the Company 1, Ninth Infantry of Minnesota Volunteers.