

Merrybell Jean Cooper Seeber

Delavan, Wisconsin

Merrybell is the Great Granddaughter of

Charles A. Cooper *Co. A, 43rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry*

Charles Cooper was born in Prussia on September 23, 1835. At the age of fourteen he became a locksmith apprentice in his home country. In 1852 he immigrated to America through New York where he remained a short time before traveling around the county and finally settling in Wisconsin. Cooper married Philena Barker of New York in 1860 and they had fourteen children of which six died at an early age. As a resident farmer of Richland and Grant counties, Cooper enlisted in 1863 as a private with Co. A of the 43rd Wisconsin Infantry. His regiment was sent to Louisville, KY and then to Nashville, TN under the command of General George H. Thomas. Cooper took part in the battles of Johnsonville on the Tennessee River and was then detailed to pursue bushwhackers in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee for several months. Further service for the Union Army found him again at Nashville, Elk River, Franklin and Decker, TN. Though he served through the greater part of the war and was discharged from service on July 5, 1865 he had never been hospitalized or taken prisoner. Following his discharge he left Wisconsin and settled in Bureau county, IL for a year before relocating to Rock Island county, IL for another two years. He then returned to his farm in Wisconsin where he remained for eight years before moving to the Dakota Territory, the state of Iowa and finally settling on a farm in Hutchinson county, South Dakota. Cooper died in Ethan, SD on July 22, 1926 at the age of ninety. He was a member of the William L. Utley G.A.R. Post in Parkston, SD.

